POPULAR WRESTLING

"Nobody Can Beat Me!" By Fabulous Moolah

$1.00

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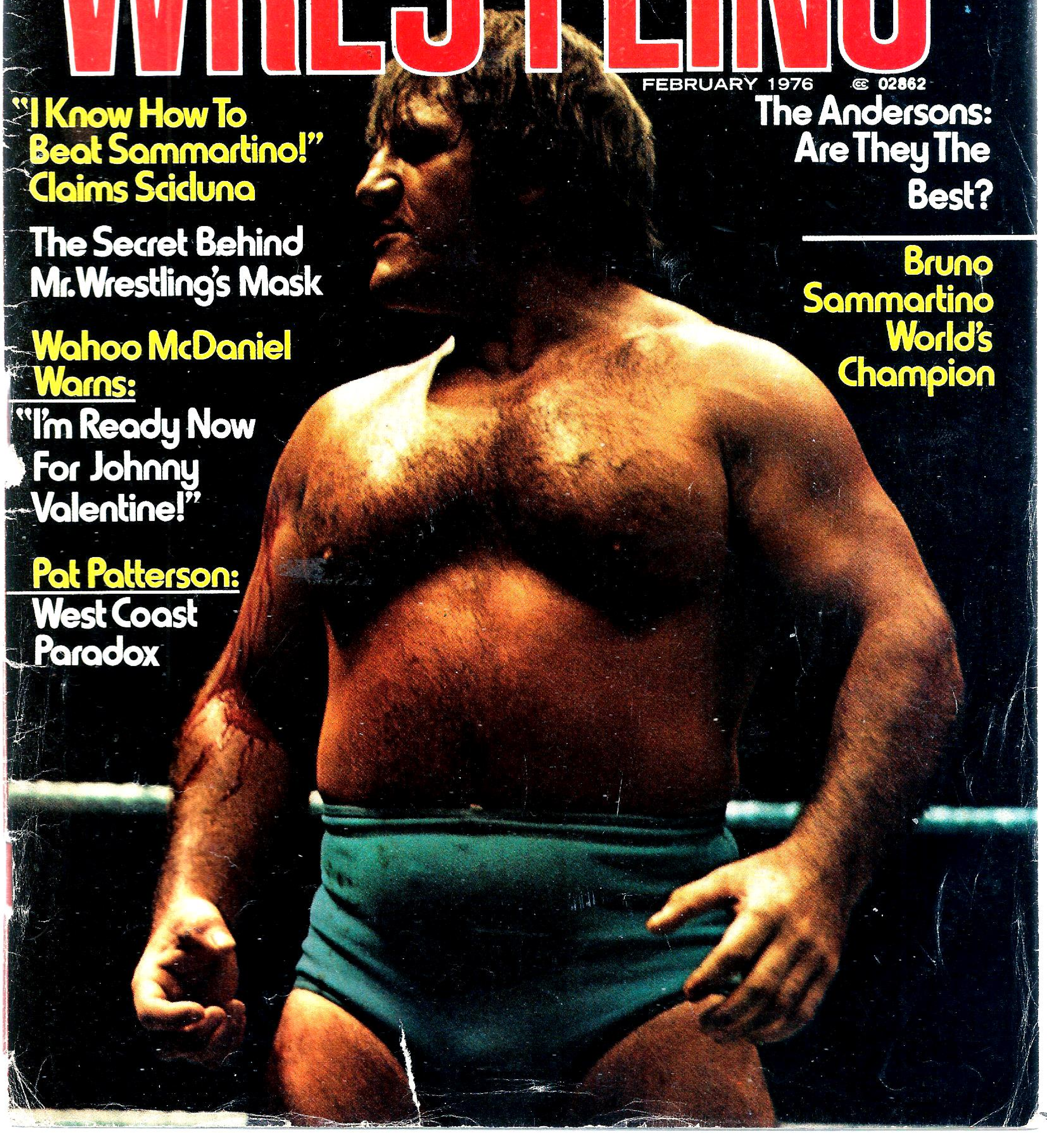

"I Know How To Beat Sammartino!" Claims Scicluna

The Secret Behind Mr. Wrestling's Mask

Wahoo McDaniel Warns: "I'm Ready Now For Johnny Valentine!"

Pat Patterson: West Coast Paradox

The Andersons: Are They The Best?

Bruno Sammartino World's Champion

POPULAR WRESTLING

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FANS FORUM

BY GEORGIANN MAKROPOULOS

Hi again. Sure have a lot of Fan Club news. Don't forget to send all your Fan Club Bulletins, Fan Club material, Photo lists and at least two samples, Newsletters and general information to me at my home — 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, New York 11102.

I have received many personal letters with congratulations on my great job as Fan Club Editor. I want to thank everyone for their encouragement. I do try my best at all times.

A few letters wanted to know what I did besides writing the Wrestling Fan Club columns, since I didn't have time for personal answers I thought I'd share this information with everyone.

I have a full time job as Receptionist Typist for American Elevator & Machine Corporation in Long Island and have been with them since 1973. I love my job there and it is very convenient to my home. I also sell Avon Products, and I am a housewife. I recently remarried as most of you know to Mr. George Makropoulos. So as you can see I keep pretty busy. But I love every minute of it. I wouldn't give up any of it.

I'm very pleased with the response to my request for index cards with Fan Club information on it. But it could be a little better. I have been hearing about newly formed Fan Clubs through the grapevine, when I should be the first to know. But the club is the one who loses out, because without publicity the club cannot survive. In a few months I would like to list the Fan Clubs and Photographers in alphabetical order but I need more cooperation.

Now down to business . . . .

First of all I have received many letters from I.W.A. fans who are interested in obtaining photos, clippings and in joining a Fan Club. As yet I have not heard of an I.W.A. Fan Club and many of my photographers have I.W.A. pictures. Anthony Chirico of 113 East Beverly Parkway, Valley Stream, New York 11580 is one of many who is interested, especially in Mil Mascaras and The Mighty Igor. Tony also wanted to know how Bobby Shane died. It happened in a plane crash.

The eight annual WFIA convention held in Boston, Mass. gave out the following awards:

Best Monthly Bulletin — JOHN & CHRIS TOLOS FAN CLUB
President — Mike Lano
Best Quarterly Bulletin — UNIVERSAL WRESTLING
President — Paul Fishbein
FAN CLUB OF THE YEAR — THE JOHN & CHRIS TOLOS FAN CLUB
1st Place Display Award went to John & Chris Tolos Fan Club designed by Diane Devine
2nd Place Display Award went to The Valiant Brothers Fan Club
3rd Place Display Award went to Baltimore Center Closeups
President — David Lopatin

Next year's wrestling convention is most likely going to be held in the middle of July in Kansas City. Diane Devine of P.O. Box 1902, Bechtold Station, St. Louis, Missouri 63118 will be the Chairlady. Send her a self-addressed stamped envelope for further information. Diane informs me that promoter Gus Karras is a wonderful person and takes a very keen interest in his wrestling fans.

Since the mailbag is so overwhelming I will be mixing up the listings, photo-

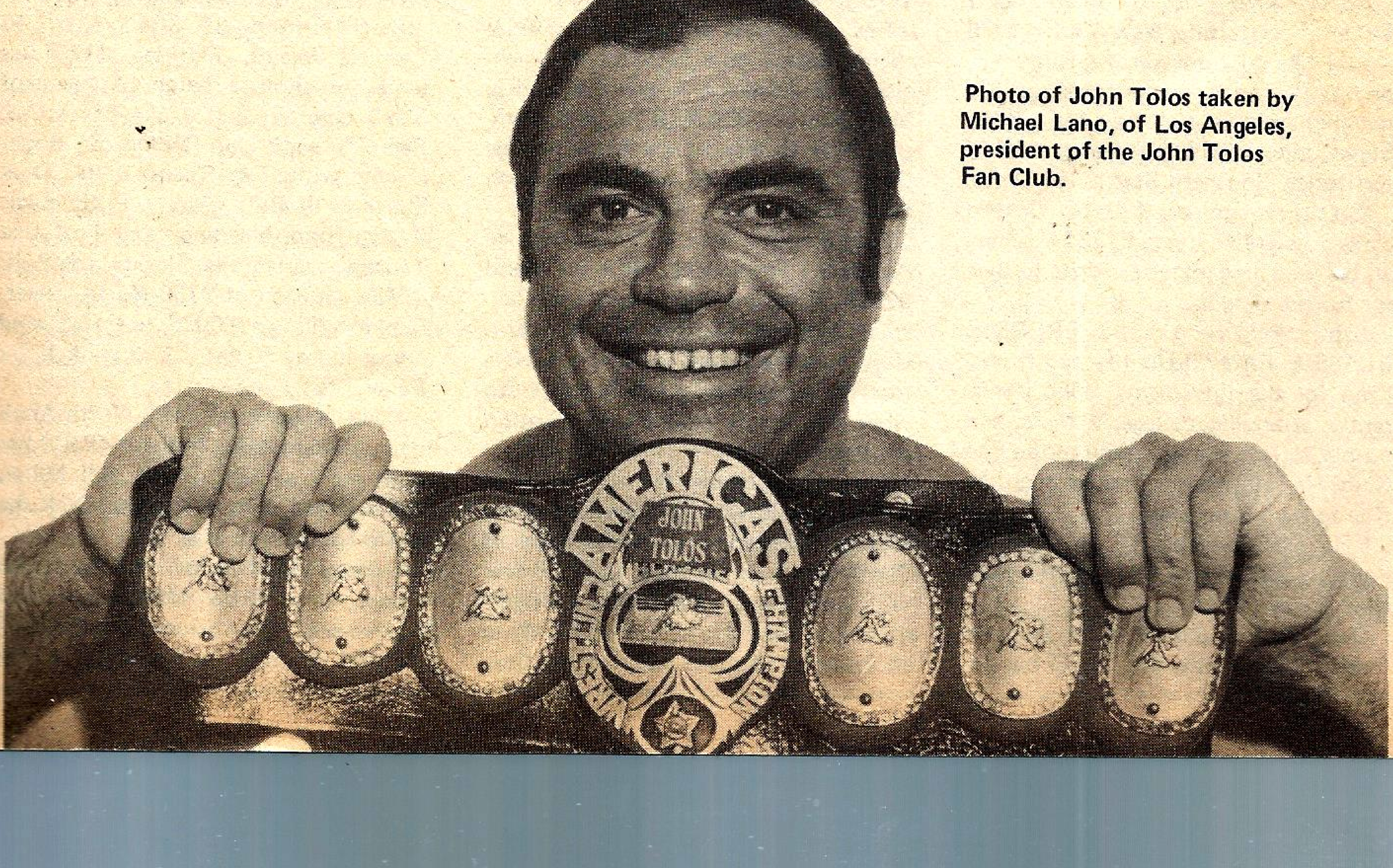


Photo of John Tolos taken by Michael Lano, of Los Angeles, president of the John Tolos Fan Club.

FANS FORUM

graphers, pen pals, clubs, etc.

I received some fantastic photos from Ruth Oman of 3011 N.W. 18 Terr., Miami, Florida 33125. She has over 3,000 photos at the cost of 50 cents each. Her samples are excellent. Send for her list today, and don't forget to send a self addressed stamped envelope with all requests, some people will *not* answer mail without a self-addressed stamped envelope.

David Richmond of 911 Oak Hill Avenue, Attleboro, Mass. 02703 also sells photos. I.W.A. and W.W.W.F. His samples were very good.

I have received a letter from Tim Palesky of 30-26 Heywood Avenue, Fairlawn, New Jersey 07410 stating that he has started a Fan Club for IVAN PUTSKI. But I received no particulars and no permission slip, which is a *must.*

John Tafoya of 12005 Albers #5, North Hollywood, California 91607 is interested in Pan Pals from all parts of the United States and other countries. John is 28 years old and enjoys wrestling very much.

Jonathan Sutton of RR 1 c/o Robert Cundiff, Eastview, Kentucky 42732 is selling photos, send a self addressed stamped envelope.

Mark Opsansnick of 114 Rosewood Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 sends out clippings, results and program sheets for 35 cents and s.a.s.e. He also has a wrestling program for 25 cents.

Robert Kaelin, Jr. of 68-26 Olcott Street, Forest Hills, New York 11375 would like to trade results, clippings, programs and cassette tapes of TV matches from fans all over the United States, especially Los Angeles, A.W.A. territories, Southern States and Texas.

Bert Prentice of 120 South 3rd Street, Esterville, Iowa 51334 is selling all his wrestling material. Write to Bert for further details.

John Arezzi of the FREDDIE BLASSIE FAN CLUB has had to disband for the time being. John is currently attending college in Mass. and cannot devote enough time to the Fan Club. He said maybe later he might be able to start it up again.

PHOTOGRAPHERS – Robert Polito – 920 Mount Road, Burlington, New Jersey 08016.

Gary Applebaum of 8714 Autumn Road, Philadelphia, Pa. 19115 has excellent photos of WWWF, IWA and Florida wrestlers, his samples were superb.

Grace Renda of 1575 Roosevelt Avenue, Bohemia, New York 11716 selling photos of WWWF stars. The samples were good.

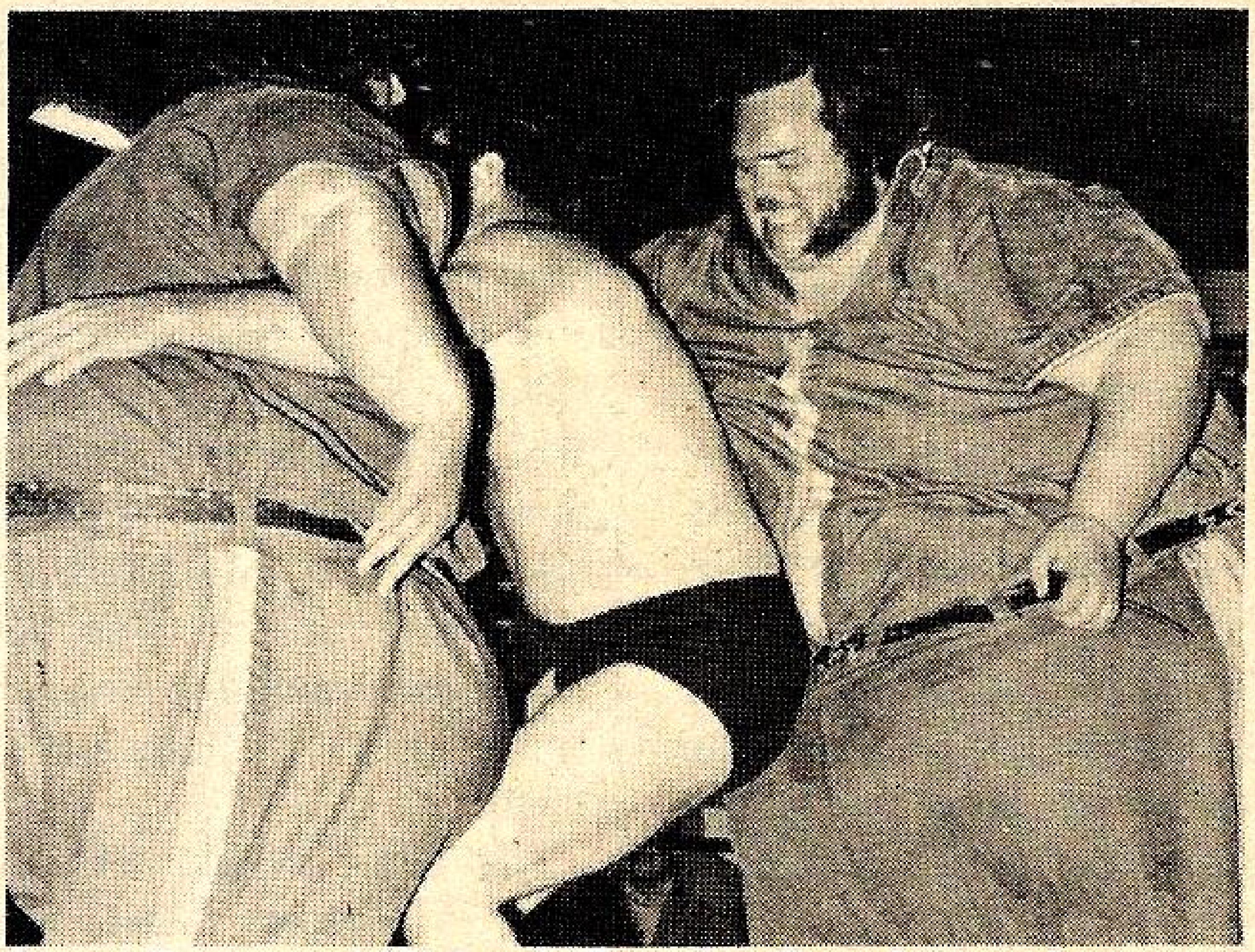
Jim Larcom of 1611 St. Mary Drive, Dunedin, Florida 33528 is selling his photos five for $2.50, such stars as The Butcher, Dusty Rhodes, Dick Murdock plus bloody shots.

Michael Lano of 3564 Amesbury Road, Los Angeles, California 90027 is selling Black and White 8x10's and 3½x5 color. His photos are excellent. (MIKE ALSO HAS FULL CONTROL OVER THE JOHN AND CHRIS TOLOS F.C.)

For some really fantastic phots write to my dear friend Terrance R. Machalek, 448 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA, R2V ON2. Samples Billy Graham, Ivan Koloff, Verge Gagne, Bockwinkel, plus much much much more.

Joe Cefala of 127 Glenbridge Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02909 is selling East Coast and Canadian pictures. Samples are excellent. If you send a s.a.s.e. you will receive a free list along with a free color photo while the supply lasts. Please mention my name.

I received some fantastic photos from Larry Bowen who works for the Midland Newspapers. His samples of The Sheik, Luis Martinez, Jack Brisce with belt, Sweet Daddy Siki in Nightclub, etc. were out of this world. Write to Larry at Midland Post Office, General Delivery, Midland, Ontario, Canada L4R 4K5.



Larry Bowen, of Midland, Ontario, Canada, caught the McGuire Twins sandwiching Terry Yorkston.

Mark Lisenby of Route One, Roanoke, Alabama 36274 is also selling photos, territory is Columbus, Georgia.

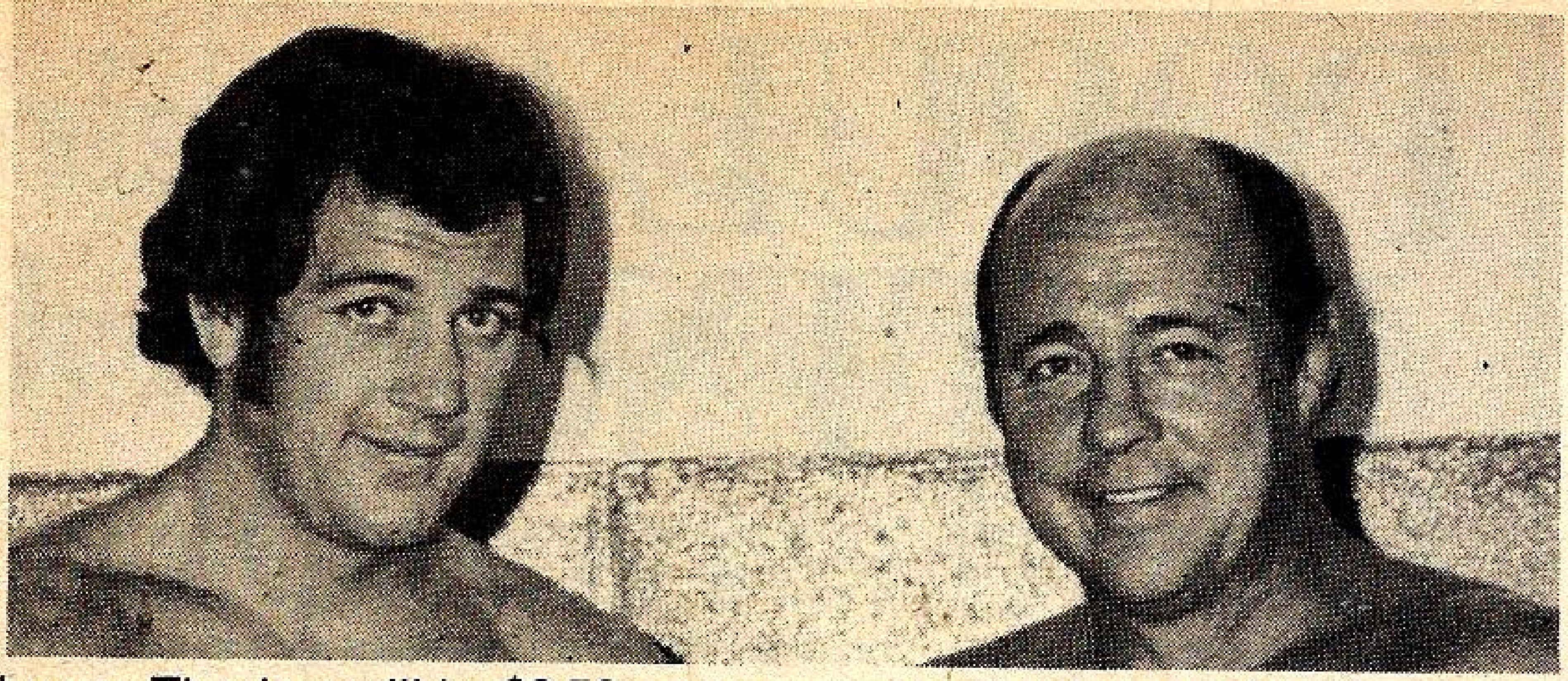
Can't forget my very dear and wonderful friend Gene Gordon. A dedicated wrestling fan who's photos are the very best by far. His collection dates as far back as 1950 to the present. Gene *must* have two - stamps and you must list your needs. Midgets, Girls, men, etc. Please also PRINT your name and address clearly. Gene has 8x10's in Black and White and 5x7's in color only. Gene can be reached at 418 Sylvania Avenue, Charlotte, North Carolina. 28206.

Ruth Oman of 3011 N.W. 10 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33125 has send me another batch of excellent 3½x5 colored photos she has taken. Samples were Jim Dillon & Roger Kirby with Tag Team Belts, Dick Slater with Belt, Danny Little Bear, Karl Krupp bleeding, and Professor Tanaka wearing the Florida Tag Belt.

Mike Gordon of 9739 North Keeler, Skokie, Illinois 60076 has also send along Jimmy Valiant, Bockwinkel, Ox Baker, etc.

Dave McLane of 4400 North Meridain, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 has such stars as Lou Thesz, Bill Miller, Bobo Brazil, Pepper Gomez, Dick the Bruiser to name a few.

Danny Drillis of 385 Chestnut Street, Lynn, Mass. 01902 writes that he received permission from SPRIOS ARION to start a Fan Club in his



Verne Gagne, right, and his son, Greg, was snapped by Terrance Machalek of Winnipeg, Canada

honor. The dues will be $3.50 per year with bulletins coming out by-monthly. The club is called "THE MAN".

BRAND NEW CLUB for DEAN HO under the supervision of John Doramajian of 35 Winthrop Road, Everett, Mass. 02149.

Robert Kosado of 919 South Meeting Street, Statesville, North Carolina 28677 is interested in buying movies, photos and negatives from all over also wrestling books.

Scott Slutsky of 9135 Keeler Avenue of Skokie, Illinois 60076 wants correspondence from Toronto, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, Cincinnati, Davenport, Iowa and Winnipeg, Canada.

Jim Brindis of 8300 West Berwyn, Chicago, Illinois 60656 is selling Grab bags at $2.00 each. It includes one magazine, 2 programs, 3 news clippings plus three photos and a bonus.

Bob Lynch of 4 Enclosure, Nutley, New Jersey 07110

Orlando Sal Macchia of 98 Glendale Street, Nutley, N.J. 07110

Pete Jarvis of 908 Cypress Drive, Delray Beach, Florida 33444 is interested in trading results from anywhere U.S.A. also clippings and programs.

Keith Reiner of 914 Coach Drive, West Deal, New Jersey 07712 is interested in purchasing photos of I.W.A. wrestlers. Also is there an I.W.A. Fan Club? If so, please contact me.

GEOFF PORTZ FAN CLUB — Rosemary Lott - President 34, Nemy Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y OK5 CANADA. The bulletin SPIN is fantastic. Very well put together.

Joseph Spolowicz of 1829 South 6th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204 is selling his magazines very reasonable.

ERNIE LADD FAN CLUB — President - Thomas Lyons of 4866 Newton Road, Hamburg, New York 14075 has received seven new members since my last ad in the Fan Club column. Who said that Ernie wasn't popular? Tom also has various wrestling material for sale.

Tony Morais of 4425 River Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 wants to trade results from across the country.

Patrick Parente of 104 Barton Avenue, Patchogue, New York 11772 is selling magazines very reasonably.

Rick Crosby of 3320 Xenwood Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 55416 is going to be putting out a magazine called "RING DIGEST" consisting of nationwide results, stories, and puzzles. Rick needs correspondents.

HERE IS A LIST OF BULLETINS THAT HAVE BEEN READ AT MY DESK THIS PAST MONTH, AND ARE WELL WORTH PUBLICIZING. All are very worthy and alot of hard work has been put into these publications.

The United East Coast Wrestling Nuts presents INSIDE EAST COAST WRESTLING bulletin published by Melodie Dee of 6608 Verterans Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11234. The dues are $5.00 yearly and single issues are $1.50 by mail.

I just received No. 7 of UNIVERSAL WRESTLING, the best by far. It's 68 pages packed with photos, stories, results, etc. Another excellent publication put out by Paul Fishbein of 10225 Selmer Plaza, Philadelphia, Pa. 19116.

Allen Suckley of 85 Moore Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, N5R 3W6 CANADA just started a new newsletter called "CANADIAN RASSLIN" which was very good. Off to a good start.

MAIN EVENT published by Arnie Katz and Bill Kunkel - P.O. Box 163, Richmond Hill, New York 11418 - Excellent.

BALTIMORE CIVIC CENTER CLOSE-UPS — David Lopatin of 6815 Maurleen Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21209 - Excellent.

ON THE MAT — Alan Kaminsky of 563 Westview Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey 07657 - Excellent.

AWA REPORT — Tom Savage - 508 North Westmore, Villa Park, Illinois 60181 — Excellent.

RASSLIN WONDERS — Mike Omansky of P.O. Box 72, Penndel, Pa.

PEDRO MORALES — Raymond Weaver, Vice President - 2123 East Washington Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. 19138.

MAT REVIEW — Joseph Bua of 126 East Fairview Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580.

ON THE SPOT FAN CLUB — Shane Jones - Half Tide Beach, Free Mailbag via Mackay 4740, Qld, AUSTRALIA.

THREE RIVERS WRESTLING ASSOCIATION — Ken Jugan of 434 Ohio Avenue, Glassport, Penna. 15045 - 75 cents per copy. Ken also has the LUIS MARTINEZ FAN CLUB, GORGEOUS GREG VALENTINE FAN CLUB AND LARRY ZBYSZKO FAN CLUB. Ken also informs me that Dan is thinking of disbanding the BRUNO SAMMARTINO FAN CLUB. Ken doesn't want to see that happen so he may decide to include Bruno with Larry's club.

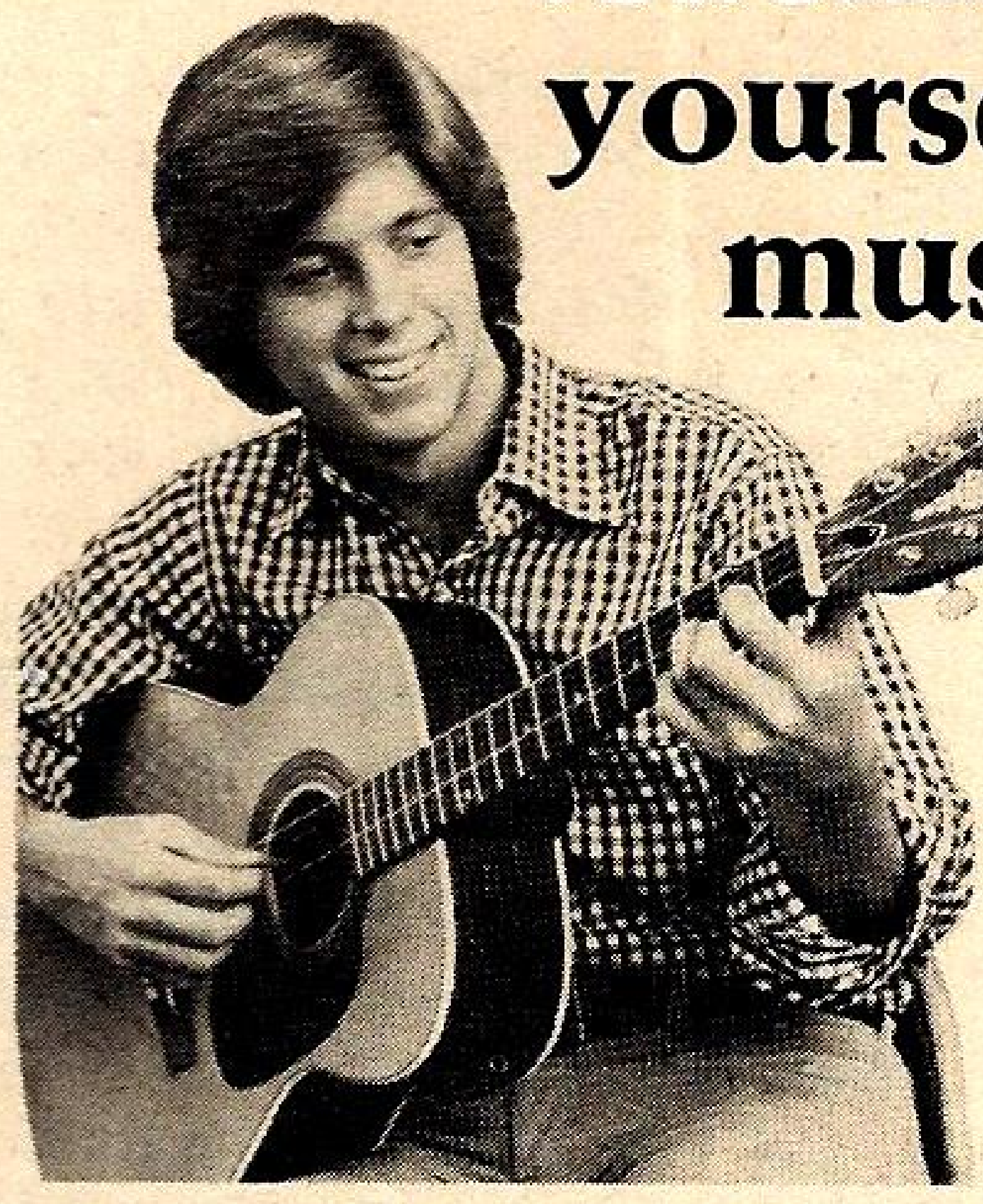
GEORGIA WRESTLING NEWS is back once again. Write to Jerry L. Boyd — Route 2 - Box 690, Griffin, Georgia 30223.

There are a lot more listings but I feel that is enough for now. We'll see you again in our next issue. Please don't forget to send me your index file cards with your Fan Club's information on it for my records. I want to up-date my files. Thanks for all your support you fans have been wonderful.

Please don't forget to send a self-addressed stamped envelope to all listed in my column, and tell them GEORGIE sent you. Sometimes a bonus will be included. I know my husband and I often send a bonus surprise with our photo orders. KEEP SUPPORTING THE GREATEST SPORT OF ALL - - - - - - WRESTLING!

Don't forget if writing to either George or myself for our photo lists, don't forget to PRINT your name and adress and send a self addressend stamped envelope. We have some fantastic action and posed shots of the East Coast stars. Like Buggsie McGraw eating an ice cream cone, Bruno Sammartino posed in front of his N.Y. Hotel, Albano bleeding, etc.

The secret of teaching yourself music



Learn piano, guitar, etc., at home in spare time

It may seem odd at first—the idea of teaching yourself music. You might think you need an expensive private teacher to instruct you—and to tell you when you make a mistake.

But, the fact is, you don't. Thousands have learned music with the lessons we give by mail. So can you.

The secret lies in the step-by-step way our lessons teach you. Starting from scratch, they show you with simple words and pictures exactly what to do. You learn to play the right way – by note, from sheet music. Without gimmicks.

But how do you know you're doing it right? Easy. A lot of the tunes you'll practice first are simple songs you've heard before. Since you know how they're supposed to sound, you can tell when you've "got them right."

By the time you go on to more advanced pieces, you'll be able to tell if your notes and timing are right, even without having heard the songs. Before too long, you'll be playing different kinds of music: ballads, old favorites, show tunes, or hymns.

For more information about this convenient, economical way to learn music, mail the coupon. We'll send you our free booklet, "Be Your Own Music Teacher" and a free "Note-Finder." No obligation.

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POPULAR RATINGS

World Champion: Bruno Sammartino

World Wide Wrestling Federation
Champion: Bruno Sammartino

1 — Waldo Von Erich
2 — Spiros Arion
3 — Ivan Putski
4 — Killer Kowalski
5 — Gorilla Monsoon
6 — Victor Rivera
7 — Dom Denucci
8 — Toru Tanaka
9 — George Steele
10 — Chief Jay Strongbow

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
Champion: Jack Brisco

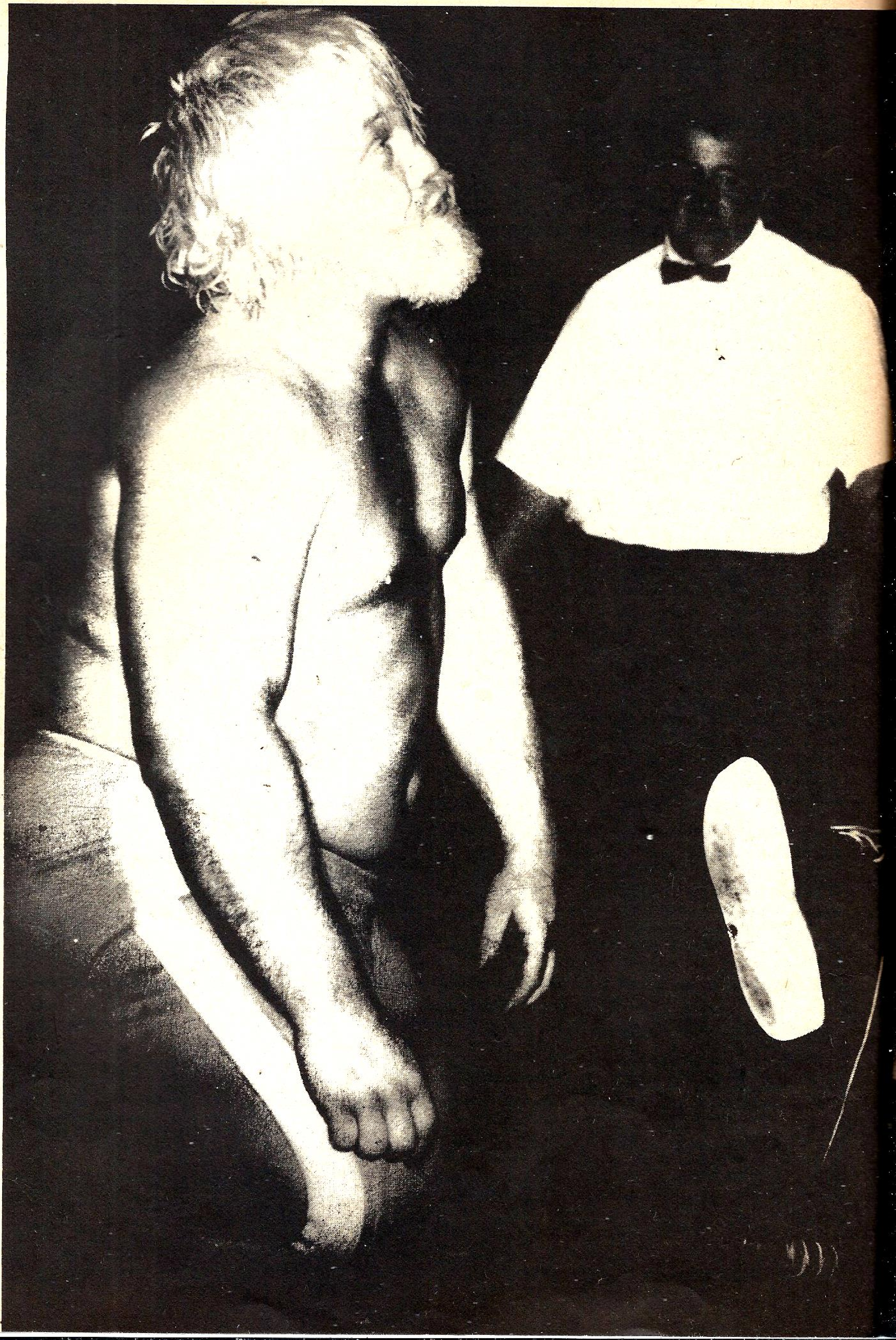
1 — The Sheik
2 — Greg Valentine
3 — Harley Race
4 — Dory Funk, Jr.
5 — Pat Patterson
6 — Jose Lothario
7 — Bobo Brazil
8 — Paul Jones
9 — Terry Funk
10 — Pepper Gomez

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION
Champion: Verne Gagne

1 — Nick Bockwinkle
2 — Dusty Rhodes
3 — Baron Von Raschke
4 — Billy Robinson
5 — Horst Hoffman
6 — Boris Breshnikov
7 — Jim Brunzell
8 — Geoff Portz
9 — Bobby Duncum
10 — Greg Gagne

Women
Champion: Fabulous Moolah

1 — Susan Green
2 — Donna Christinello
3 — Ann Casey
4 — Toni Rose
5 — Kay Noble
6 — Vicki Williams
7 — Belle Starr
8 — Dottie Downs
9 — Jean Antone
10 — Evelyn Stevens

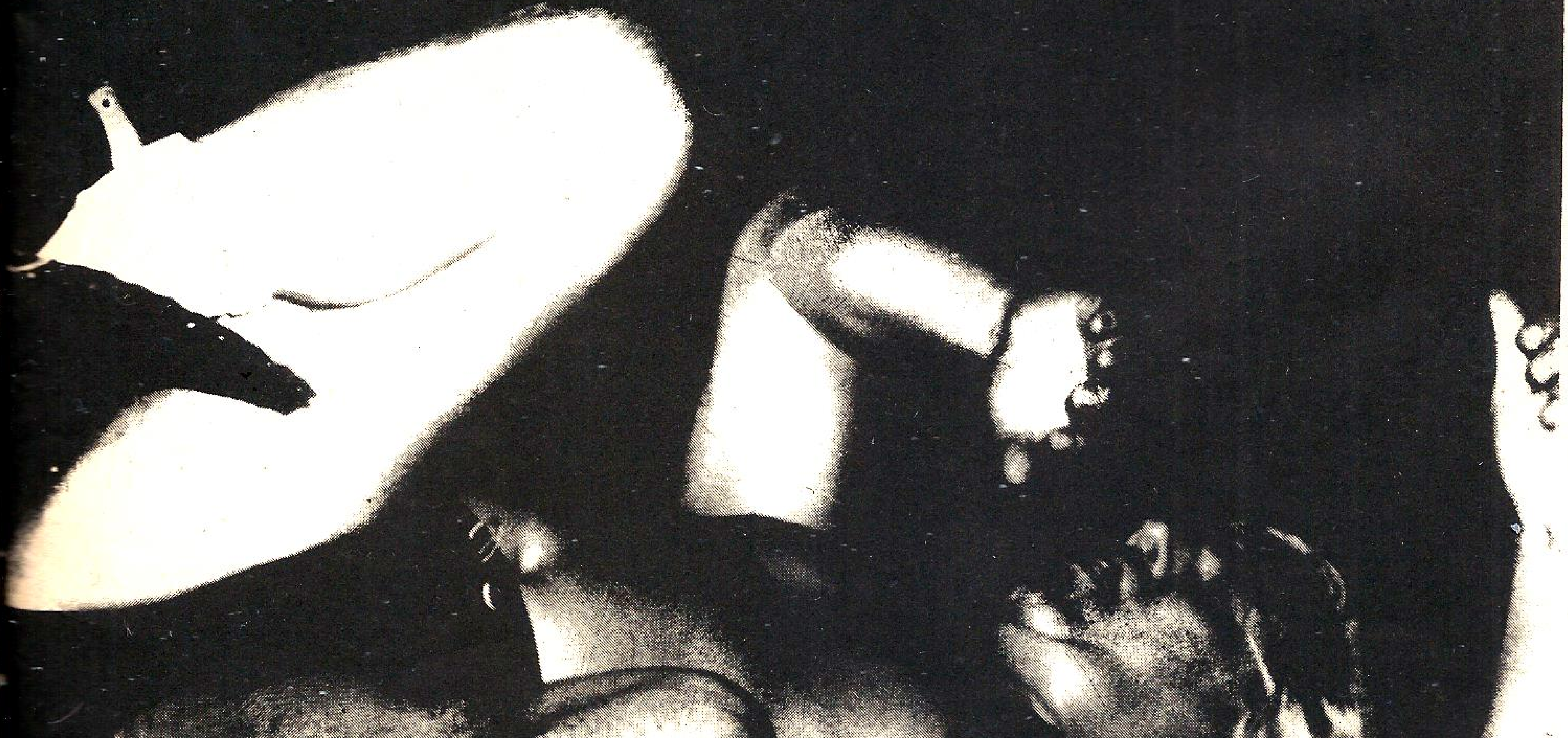


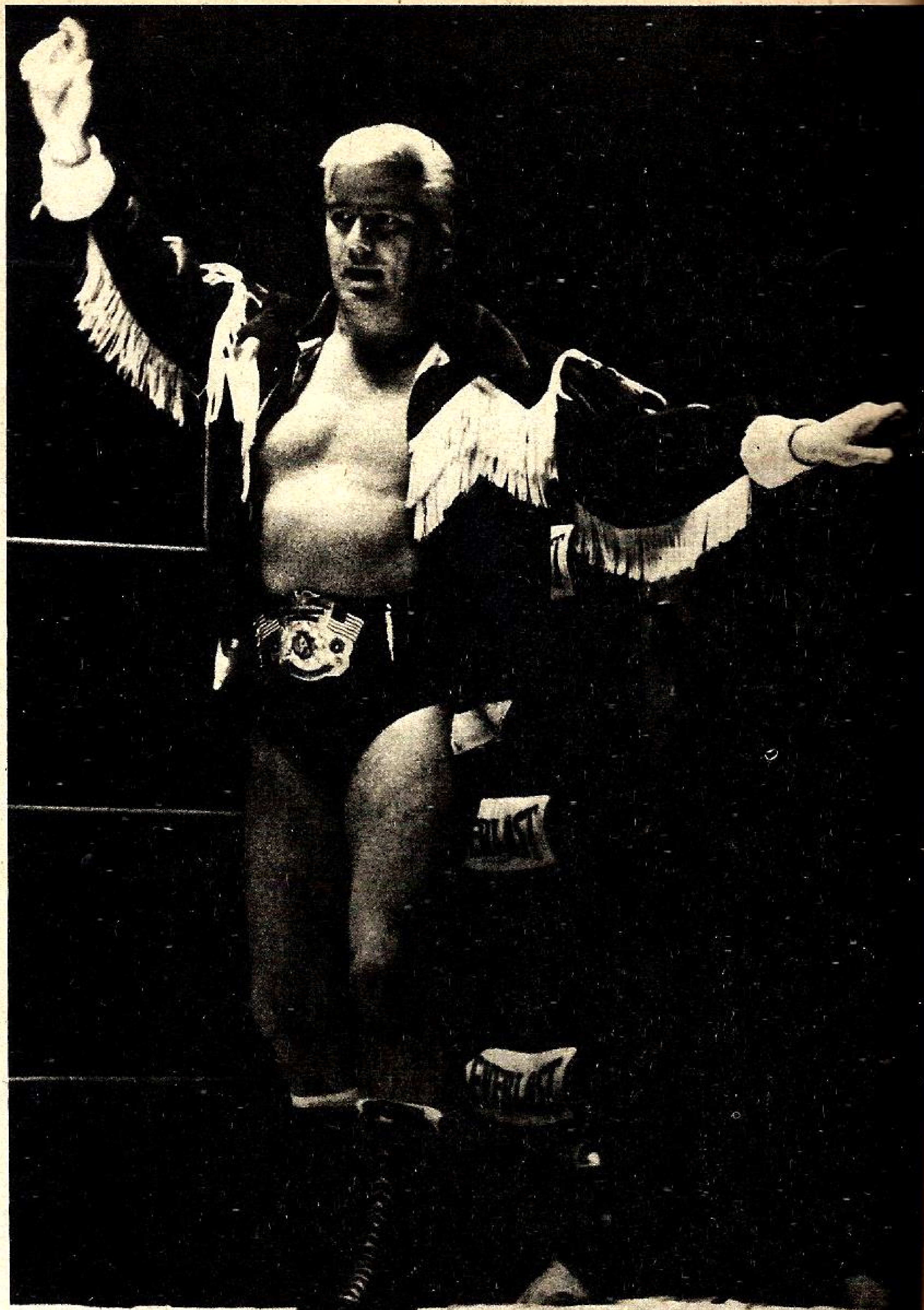
PAT PATTERSON:
West Coast Paradox

At times he's cheered and others he's booed. Sometimes he wrestles clean and sometimes he breaks the rules. In any event, there's never a dull night when Patterson is in the ring.

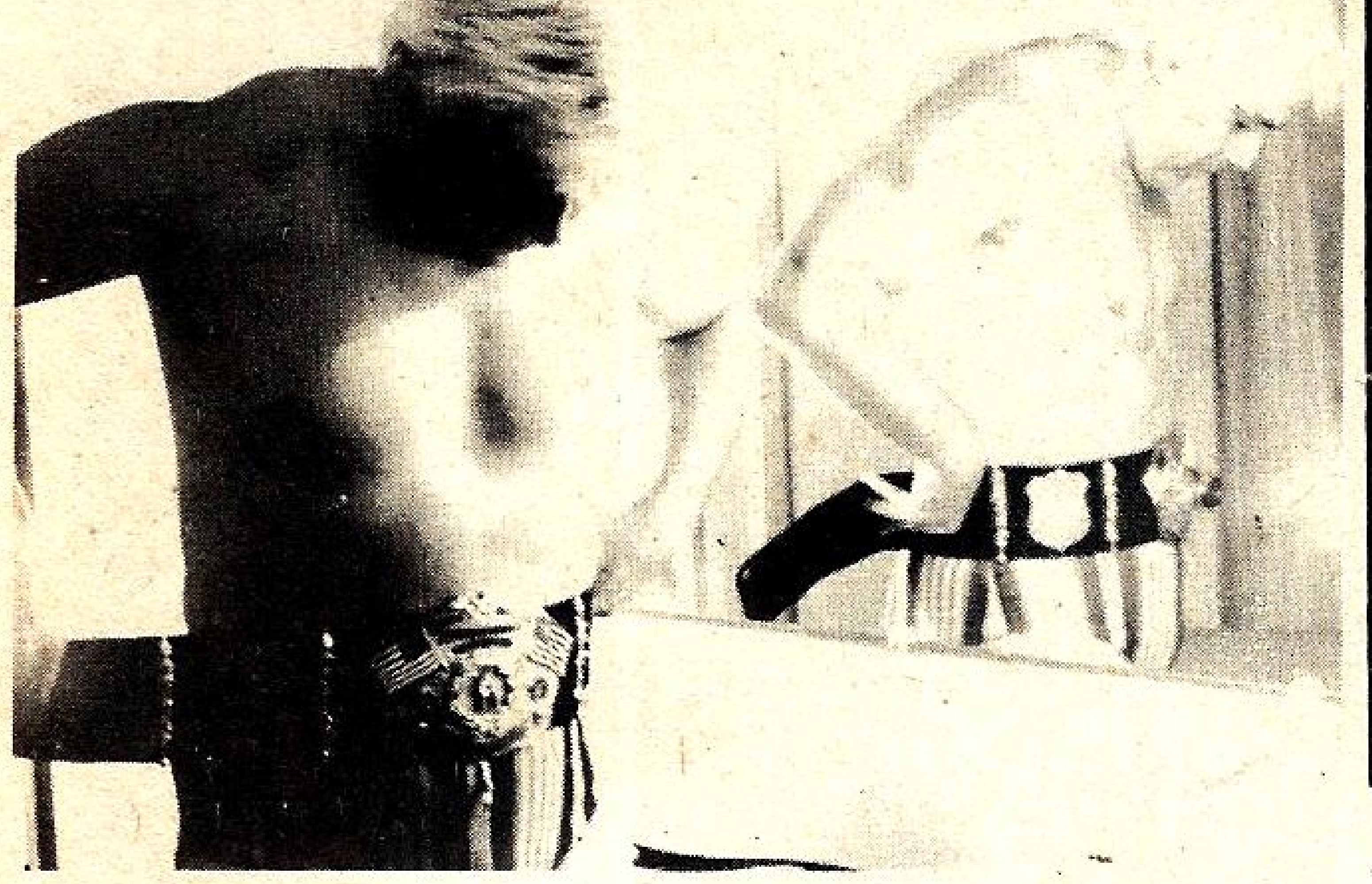
BY ALLAN BOLTE

Patterson is at a disadvantage against Moondog Mayne.





Displaying his championship belt, Patterson waves to the crowd as he is introduced before match. Below, Patterson carefully secures his prized belt in his dressing room. He also shared the tag team wrestling belt with Ray Stevens before they split.



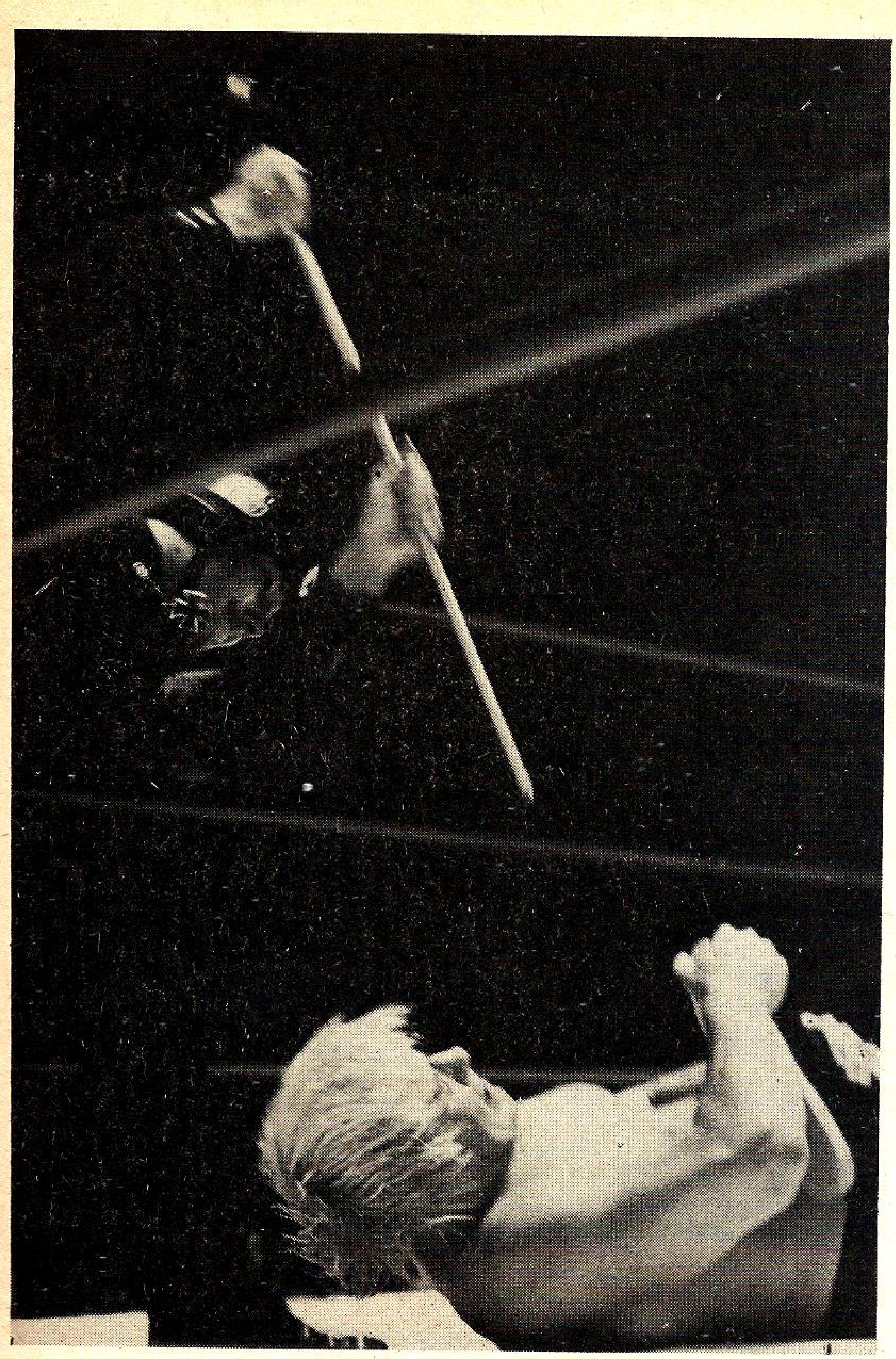
When Ray Stevens first made it big, it was in team competition with Canada's Pat Patterson. The two were so good they successfully defended their World's Tag Team Championship against many of the greatest teams in wrestling. Teams such as Pepper Gomez and Pedro Morales, Jose Lothario and Luis Martinez, and Mark Lewis and Eduardo Carpentier challenged the two blonds but were not quite good enough to capture the belts from them.

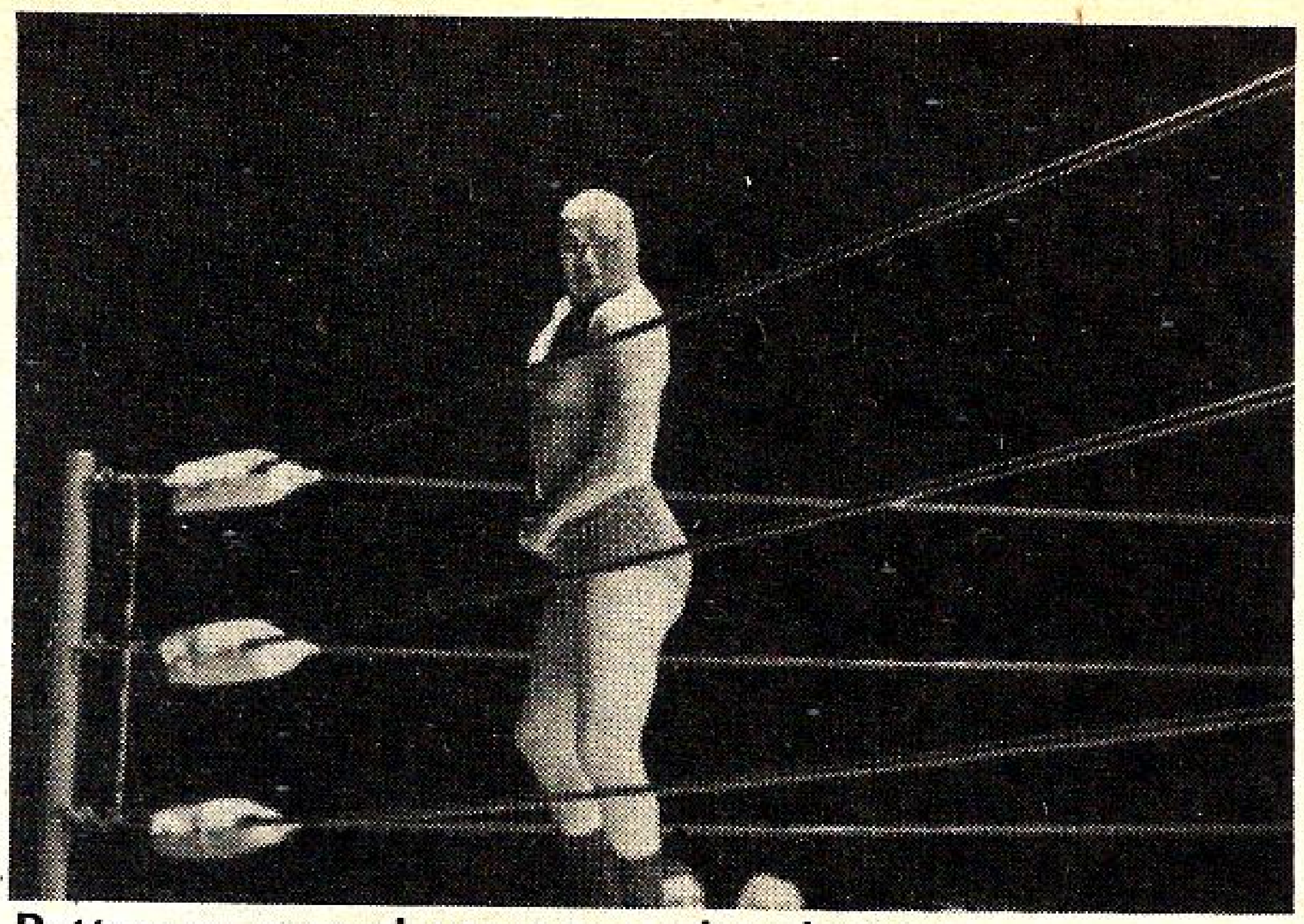
That was nine years ago and since then, the young, talented Patterson has gone through many changes. In those days Stevens and Patterson were labeled, "murder incorporated" and they did anything within their power to win their matches and thus retain their crowns. They broke every rule imaginable and they made all attempts to hospitalize or at least injure their foes in the ring.

Finally, the two split up after losing their belts and Stevens left the area and went on a tour of Japan. He spent half a year there and was very successful. However, Stevens felt that he more or less was representing the United States as a wrestler while in Japapn and he decided to change his ways and try following the rules while on the mat. True, this was the first time Stevens ever had followed the rules but after trying it for a few months he realized that he really liked his new ways. He left Japan and returned to the West Coast, where Patterson had left from a month earlier. Pat was wrestling in Texas when Stevens returned to the West Coast with his "new look." He told everyone on television interviews and at the arenas that he was going to follow the rules henceforth and that he indeed felt like a new man. Naturally, the fans were leary of Stevens because they were used to his slam-bang, sadistic style of grappling. After a month or so, Stevens won the fans' hearts and they loved him.

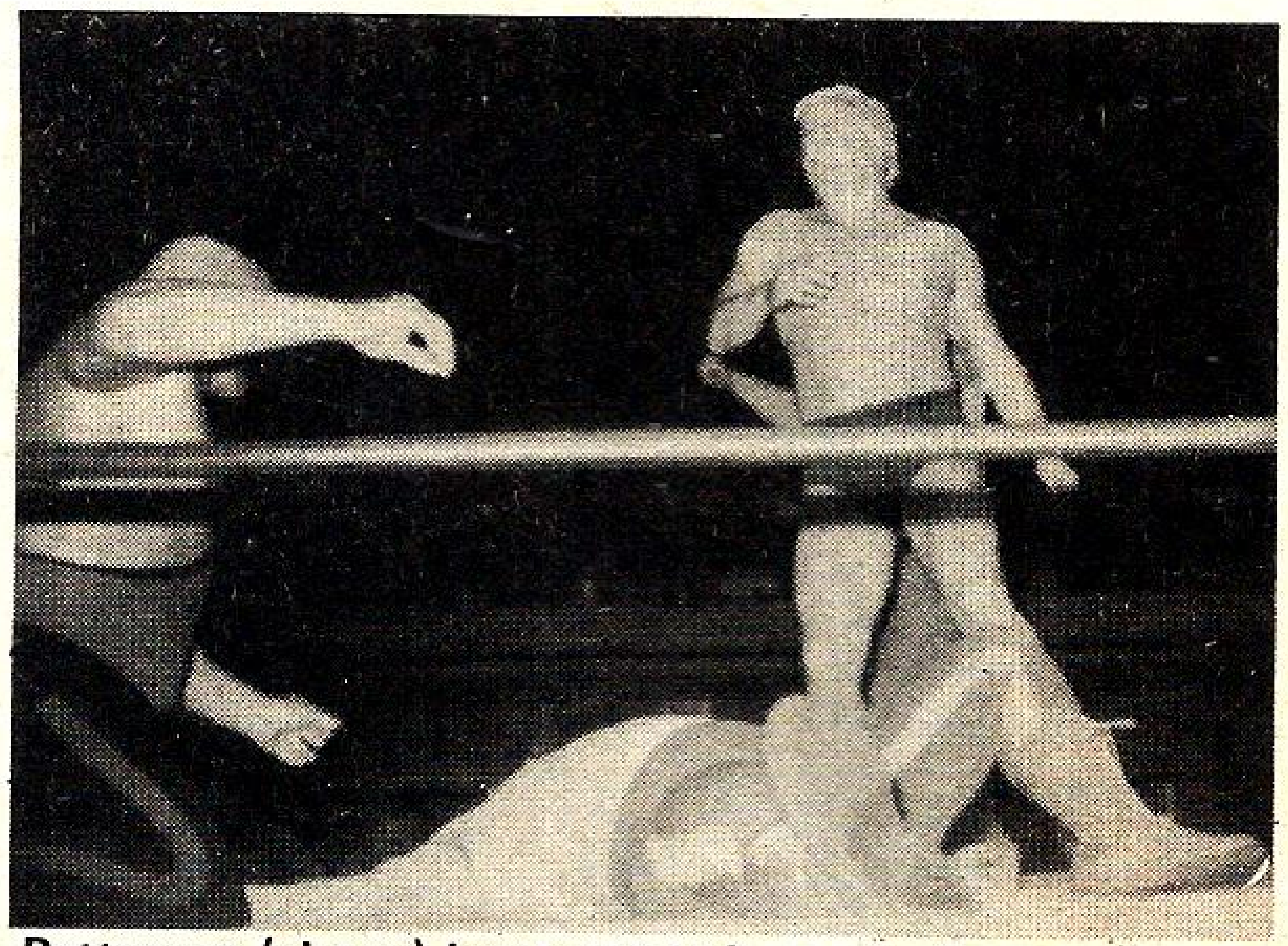
The fans haunted Stevens with autographs, photos, and they wanted Stevens in tag competition to attempt to win back the World's Tag Team Championship that they originally lost. However, he realized that Stevens had changed his ways drastically and wasn't about to wrestle in the same manner Patterson did.

"I was furious when I found out about the way Stevens was wrestling," said Patterson. "Stevens and I made a great





Patterson several years ago when he constantly broke the rules, this time by hiding a foreign object in his trunks.



Patterson (above) has matters in control as he stands over the fallen Moondog Mayne during a tag bout. At left, however, Pat is in trouble as Gearhardt Kaiser rushes into ring and stabs Patterson with his cane.

team and there was none around who could defeat us. I returned to the West Coast only to re-team with Stevens and win back our tag belts. I was shocked when I saw Stevens wrestling like a sissy and teaming up with the same wrestlers we had opposed — guys like Pepper Gomez and Pedro Morales. Believe me, I was sick at my stomach when I saw Stevens teaming up with Gomez.

"I had my mind made up when I flew back to the West Coast. After all, I didn't leave Texas and return to this smelly San Francisco area for nothing. I wanted badly to win back the tag titles but I wasn't about to join Stevens the way he was.

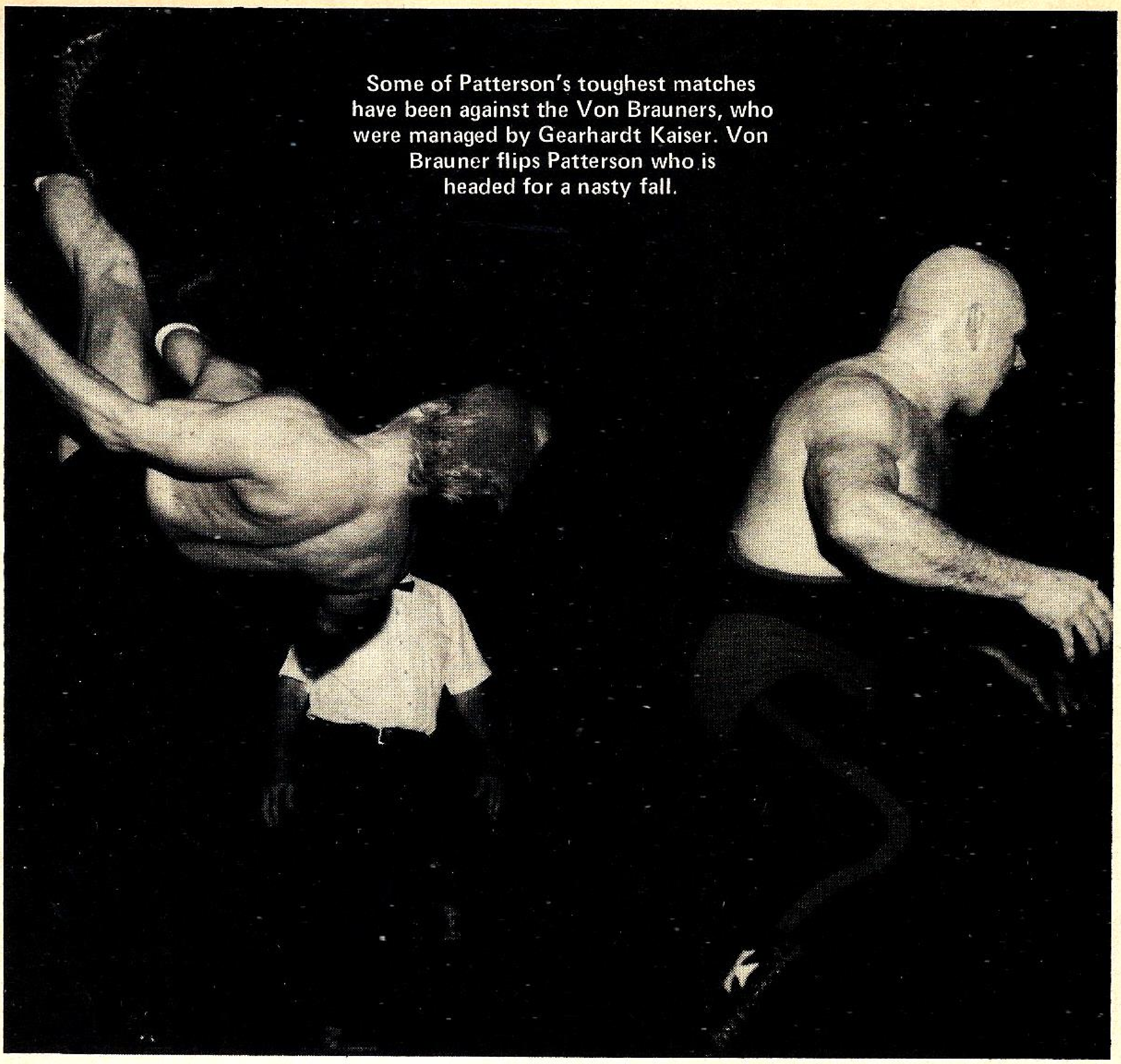
"In fact," Patterson continued, "he made me so furious that I challenged him to a single match and that was the start of something big. We fought in some of the wildest matches I've ever been in. If I had to rate my toughest opponent in my career so far, it would definitely be Ray Stevens.

"Finally, after two matches we fought in a death match in San Francisco's Cow Palace before 15,000 fans. There was blood everywhere and we fought like wild animals.

"A little bit later, I'd say maybe four months or so, Stevens again left the area and went to Chicago. He teamed with Nick Bockwinkle and I'll admit the two made a damned good team. Stevens changed after spending some time with Bockwinkle and he began breaking the rules again. Well, I decided as long as I was in the West Coast area that I would stay there a while longer and attempt to win the United States Heavyweight Championship — which I did.

"I won the crown and met some of the biggest names in the sport. This was around four years ago," Patterson recalled. "I successfully defended my belt against Bobo Brazil, Spiros Arion, Peter Maivia, Rocky "Soulman" Johnson, Cyclone Negro, Pepper Gomez, and Pepper Martin. And, it seemed that I was one of the most unpopular, most hated grapplers in the area.

"Sure, I knew why the fans hated me and at the time I really couldn't have cared less. They disliked me because I broke every rule I could and because I was defeating all their favorites. I never signed an autograph and I was unkind to the fans. After all, I wasn't wrestling the fans so



Some of Patterson's toughest matches have been against the Von Brauners, who were managed by Gearhardt Kaiser. Von Brauner flips Patterson who is headed for a nasty fall.

why should I care what they thought about me? They weren't challenging me for my title. They continued to pay their way to see me in action and that was all I cared about, because it meant money to me.

"After a while of this, I finally sat down and slept on a few personal thoughts. I was making good money. I was the champion and very successful but to be honest something was missing. I thought about Stevens and how he successfully changed his ways and he really seemed to like it. So, I thought I would try it. I cautiously gave my opponents a different outlook and I entered the ring with an entirely different attitude about things.

"I went on television and the people naturally were leery of me. The promoters began pairing me with some of the wrestlers who generally follow the rules and I found myself wrestling guys who fight like I once fought — dirty. Soon, the fans began rooting for me and it was a damned good feeling.

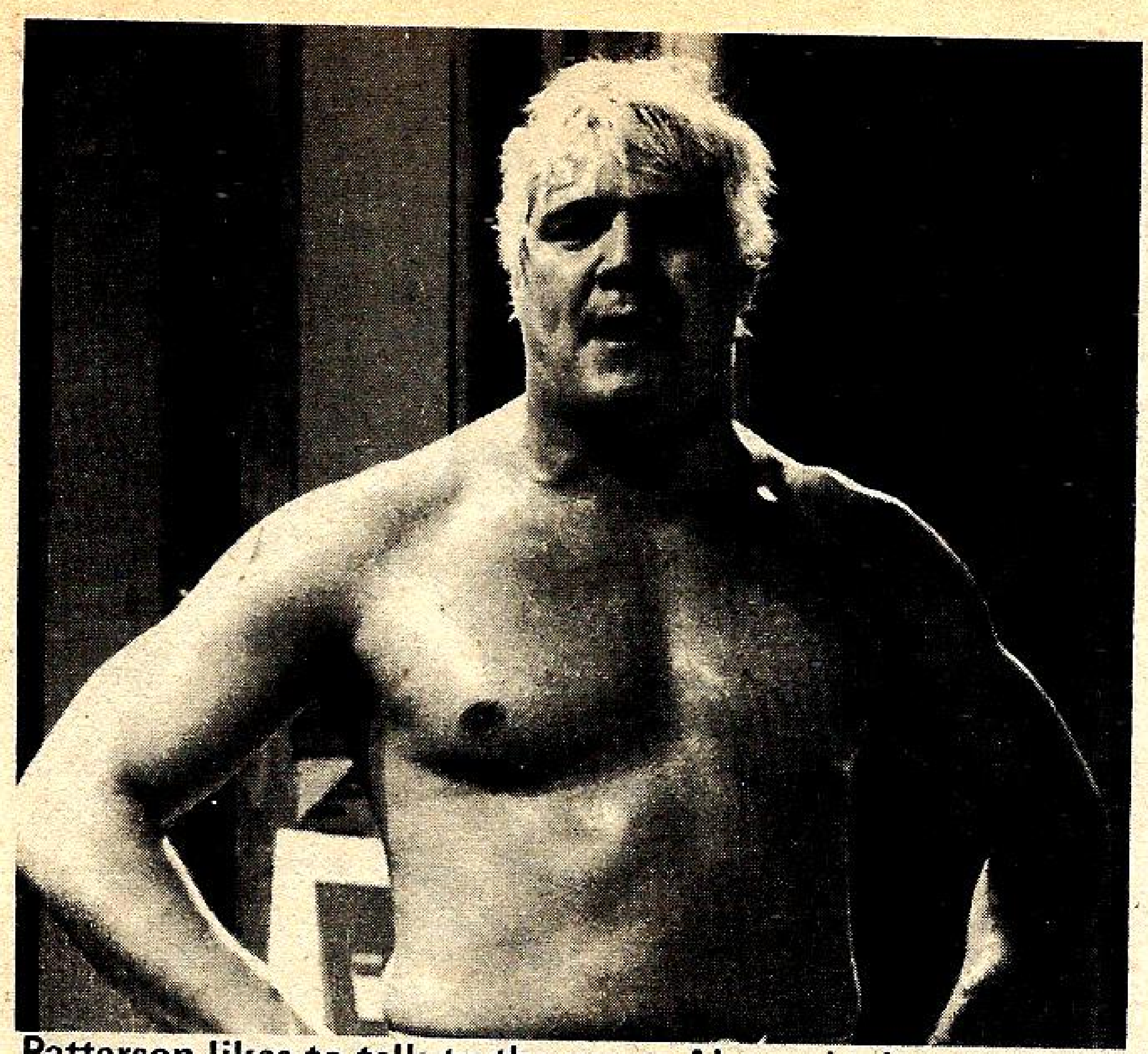
"I'd find myself in a predicament and I'd hear thousands of people cheering me on. It really made a difference. I loved every second of it. Everyone wanted my autograph, they wanted me to pose for pictures and I was soon one of their favorite wrestlers. I was a new man! I found myself wrestling such topnotchers as "Luscious" Lars Anderson, Kinji Shibuya, Moondog Mayne, "Mister" Paul DeMarco, The Brute, Angelo Mosca, Mr. Saito, and others. Everyplace I went, the fans were totally behind me 100%."

Presently, Patterson still is one of the most popular wrestlers around and he still generally follows the rules whenever he can. Just what is his style of wrestling?

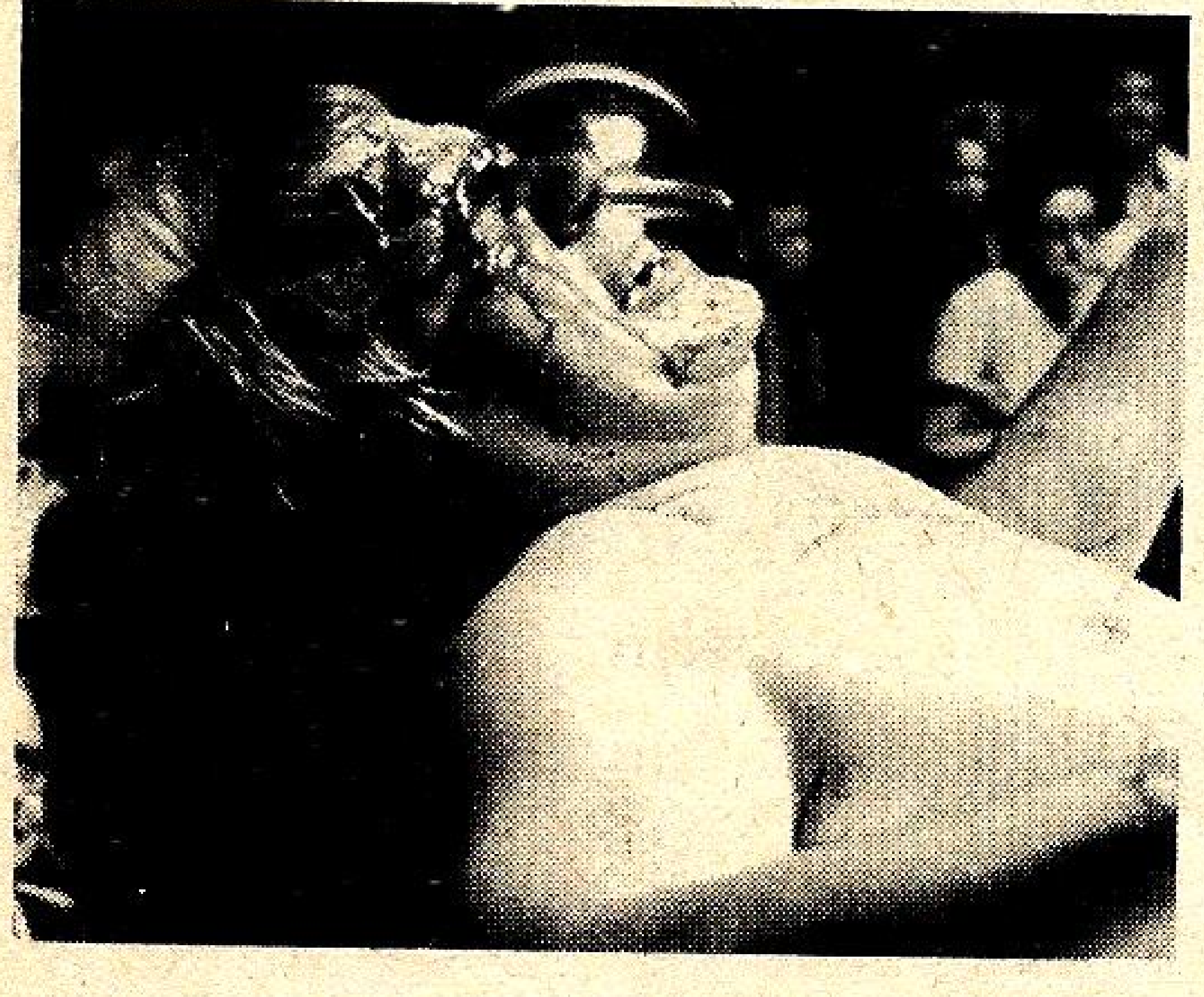
"I enter the ring prepared for any eventuality," Pat answered. "If my opponent wants to play by the rules, then fine. This is how I prefer it to be. However, if he wants to break the rules, then so can I. After all, if anyone knows how to break the rules it's Pat Patterson! Guys like Moondog Mayne, The Masked Invaders, The Brute and Angelo Mosca haven't heard of a thing such as rules and that's why they're hated so much. They may be big and sadistic but they're not at all sports. They enter the ring only to injure and if at all possible, hospitalize their foes."

Patterson and tag partner Peter Maivia, the chief of Samoa, are having a fued with the Masked Invaders and their manager, Gearhardt Kaiser. A few months ago in Miami, Florida, Patterson and Maivia, who at that time were the World's Tag Team Champions, defended their belts against The Invaders who won the match and the crowns. It was said that they didn't do so fair and square, and that Kaiser had something to do with the final outcome. Patterson and Maivia are steaming about the situation and they plan on getting at The Invaders and thus regaining their tag belts.

"Everyone knows about Gearhardt Kaiser," Pat stated.



Patterson likes to talk to the press. Above, he is being interviewed on television. Below, is another story, as Pat lays bloodied and battered in his corner.



"He managed The Von Brauners and Kaiser spent more time in the ring interfering than he did outside of the ring where he is supposed to be. Kaiser may have a license to manage but by no means does that give him the right to interfere in the match. I got my hands on him once and I'll do it again. Now, he's interfering in the matches with The Invaders and it's not right. By the time this article is published, I'll have Gearhardt Kaiser in the hospital. Just wait and see."

Yes, Patterson did get his hands on Kaiser. Several months ago in the Cow Palace Patterson and Kaiser wrestled in a special strap match. Both men were tied together on their hands by a leather strap and there thus was no way Kaiser could escape. Patterson clobbered him that night and Kaiser was a bloody mess.

"I tried for months to get him in the ring and I finally succeeded," the blond disclosed. "The first time I got him in the ring was in a six-man tag team match and anytime we would get our hands on Kaiser, The Von Brauners, his partners, would come to his aid. I then challenged him to a regular four-man tag bout and he and Karl Von Brauner took on me and Peter Maivia. We vowed that we would get Karl out of the way and then both beat the hell out of Kaiser. We got in a fist and a foot or two but it wasn't quite enough. I finally got him in the ring for the strap match and there wasn't an unhappy person in the huge arena. Everyone knew that Gearhardt had it coming."

Patterson indeed is an all-around athlete. He attended high school in Monteal, Canada and starred in basketball, wrestling, football and track. Upon graduation, he attended the local YMCA and spent many hard weeks working out with weights and practicing wrestling holds. He had always enjoyed contact sports and seemed to take a particular interest in professional wrestling.

"I'll never forget how difficult it was when I first turned pro," he recalled. "It's still difficult but it was naturally a bit harder when I first started out. I didn't know much and I was unexperienced. Experience is always the best teacher. I received my lumps, believe me. However, I never quit. I stuck with it and eventually improved greatly and I really love my profession. Wrestling allows me to travel and see the world and meet all types of people, it allows me to make money and also keeps me in the best physical condition. That's why I like it so."

Patterson has mixed it on the mat with some of the greatest names in wrestling. He's been in death matches, six-man tag bouts, battle-royals, lumberjack matches and other special types of events. Last January, Patterson won the annual 18-Man Battle-Royal in San Francisco, a check for $12,000 and a beautiful trophy. Other participants included 7'4", 424 pound Andre the Giant; 601 pound Haystacks Calhoun; Dutch Savage; Victor Rivera; Peter Maivia, etc. Patterson defeated Karl Von Brauner of Germany to win the battle-royal before a sell-out crowd.

Patterson still is the U.S. Heavyweight Champion and he has met Moondog Mayne, The Brute, Angelo Mosca, Kinji Shibuya and Karl Von Brauner in wild matches. When he's up against wrestlers such as these, Patterson usually begins the match by following the rules but after a few moments in the ring with such as Mayne, he too follows in kind and shatters them.

An extremely friendly person, Pat always takes time from his busy schedule to volunteer his help on March of Dimes, Easter Seals, etc. He often donates money to help crippled children and other handicapped people.

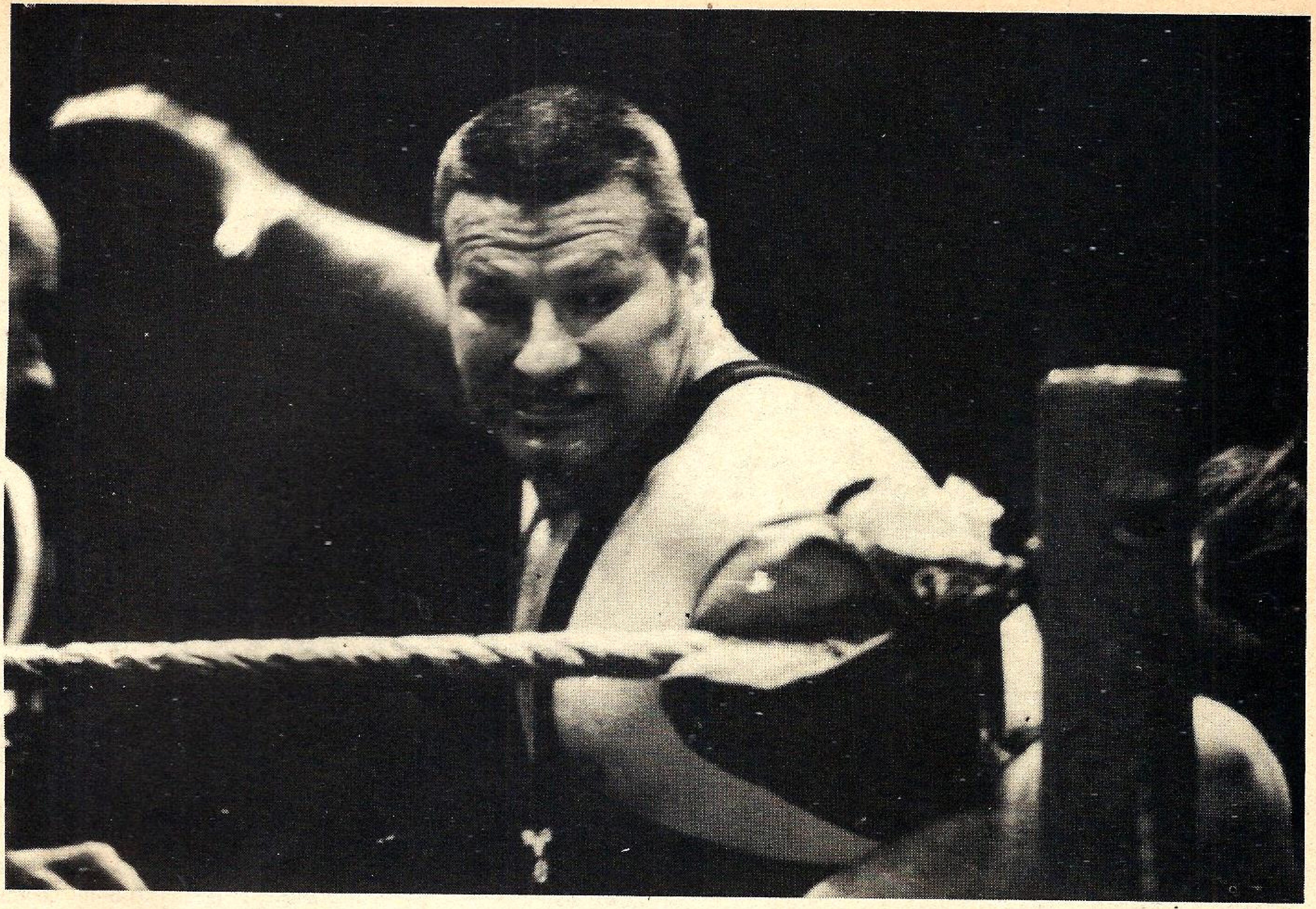
A very busy man, Patterson finds his day occupied. If he's not in the gyms working out with weights and practicing wrestling holds, he's on the road or in the air travelling for his next match or in the ring in a main event. Because of his big box-office draw, promoters across the country constantly are burning up the wires attempting to get in touch with him to wrestle on their cards. Patterson often accepts but he prefers wrestling around the West Coast.

"Everybody has their favorite area and mine is the West Coast," Patterson said. "The people are wonderful, the area is beautiful, the competition is tough. That's why I like it here. I enjoy wrestling here whenever possible but sometimes I can't, depending on whether or not I've been asked to wrestle elsewhere in the country. I like to get around."

Patterson can hop on a jet and be anywhere he wishes within a matter of an hour or two or three, which is both good and bad. It's good for him because of his hectic schedule, however it's not good for West Coast fans in that he may decide to accept offers from the East Coast, Japan, Australia or Europe. With transportation as quick and readily available as it is these days, Patterson could hop about the world and return within a matter of days.

His present goal? To regain the World's Tag Team Championship with partner Peter Maivia from The Masked Invaders, and to rid wrestling of Gearhardt Kaiser.

"Those are my present goals and believe me, I'll accomplish them," Patterson insisted. We believe him. ■

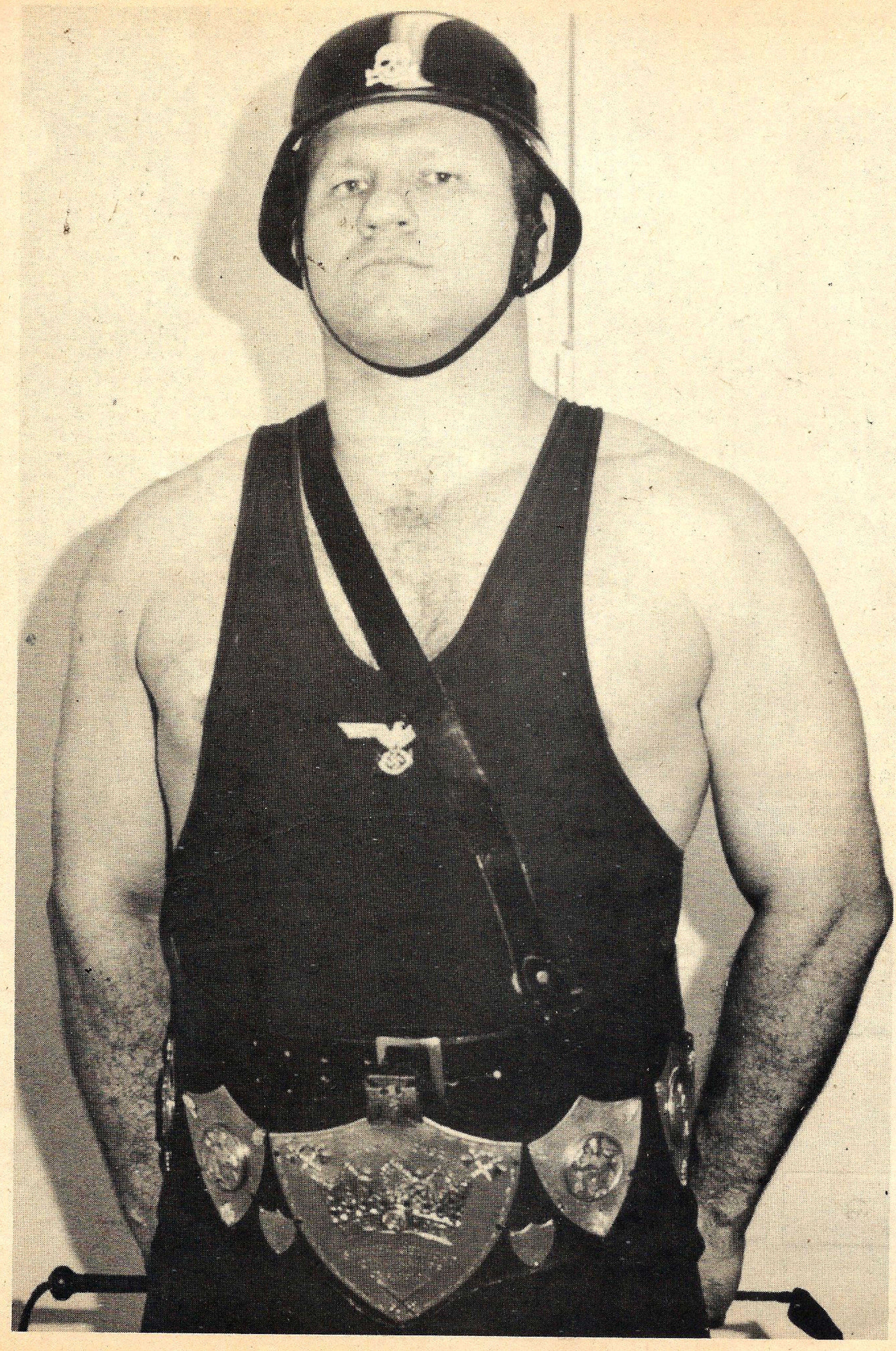


The powerful German will do anything to win. . . and usually does! Which is the way his manager, Fred Blassie, wants anyway.

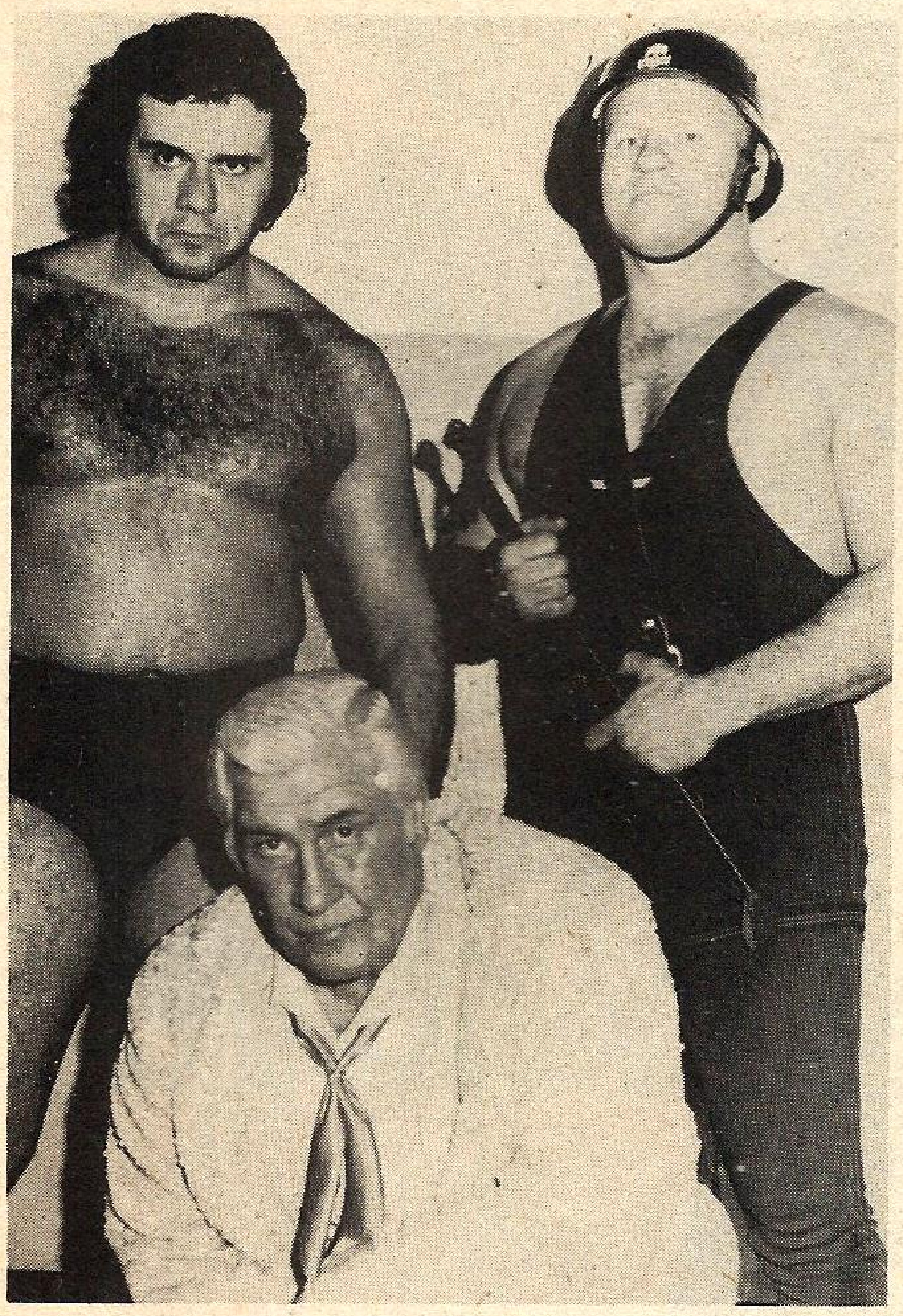
WALDO VON ERICH:

He Enjoys Being Sadistic

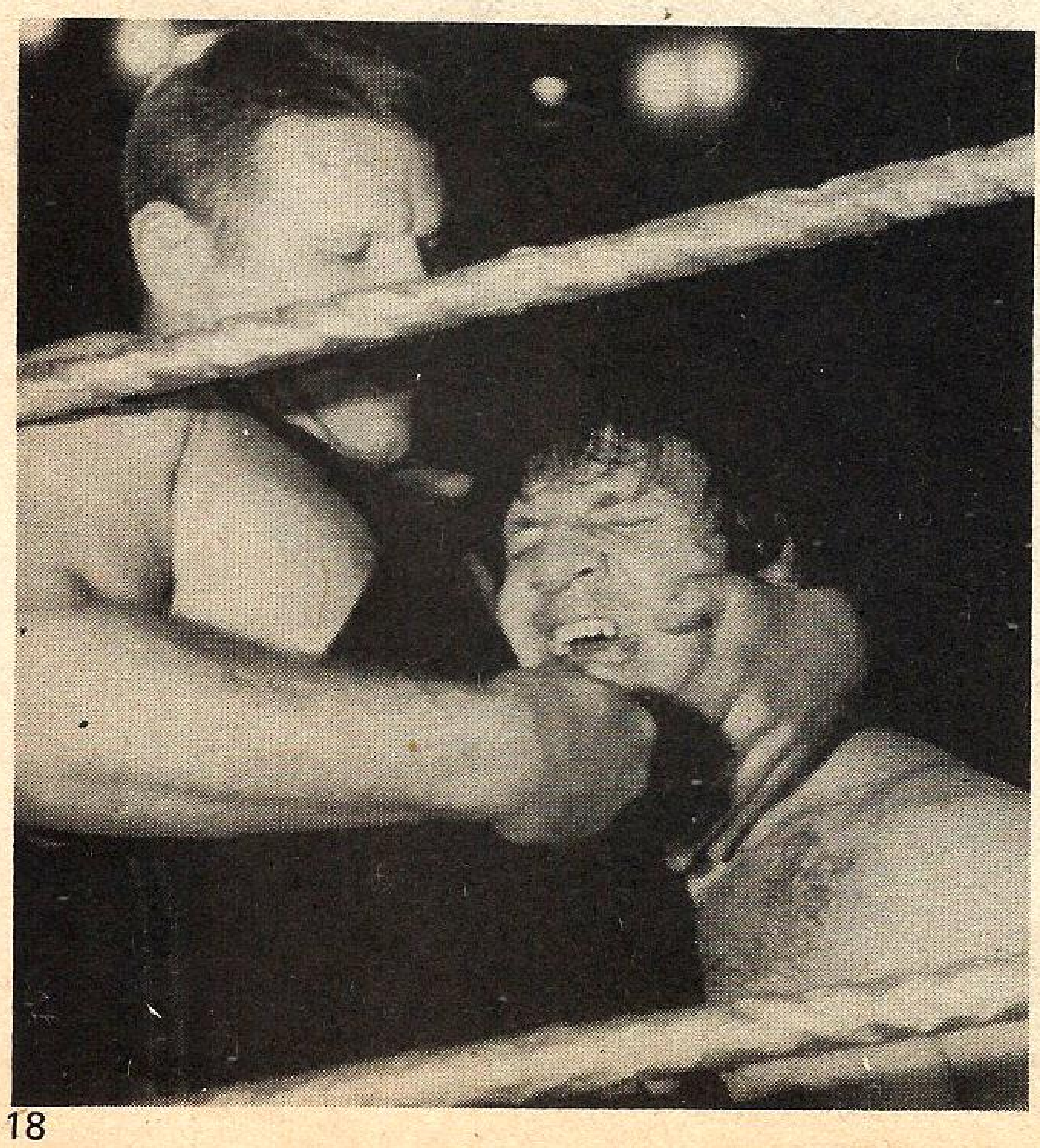
BY FRANK AMATO



WALDO VON ERICH



Manager Fred Blassie, kneeling, has two of the meanest wrestlers around in Spiros Arion, left, and Waldo Von Erich. Below, Von Erich shows just how mean he can be in the ring by cutting away at Bruno Sammartino's jaw.



Waldo Von Erich stands 6 feet 2 inches and 265 pounds on a well muscled solid body. He wears a dark blue costume of shirt top and tights. A black belt and shoulder strap harness is worn over the costume. On his head is a black glossy German helmet. In his hand he carries a swagger stick. He wears high length black boots. On his helmet a skeleton insignia is on the front. On his shirt is another insignia from his homeland of Germany.

In the ring Waldo Von Erich stands tall and erect. A look of total arrogance crosses his hard features. A snear is visible at the corner of his mouth. He walks around the ring his head held high, glaring at the crowd who are booing him. He gives his opponent a look of pure meaness from across the ring. His manager Fred Blassie is ever on the move gesturing out at the fans demanding total respect for his newest of proteges. When Waldo Von Erich is introduced to the crowds jamming the arena he does a German goose step, clicks his booted heels together, and raises his right arm in a Nazi salute. This only makes the fans boo him and hate all the more.

Blassie walks over to Waldo and points at the last article completing Waldo's costume. The article is the European Heavyweight Championship Belt. Removing all the excess articles of his costume and handing them to Blassie, Waldo is ready to wrestle. Waldo is more than ready. His opponent looks ready but perhaps not so confident as his German counterpart.

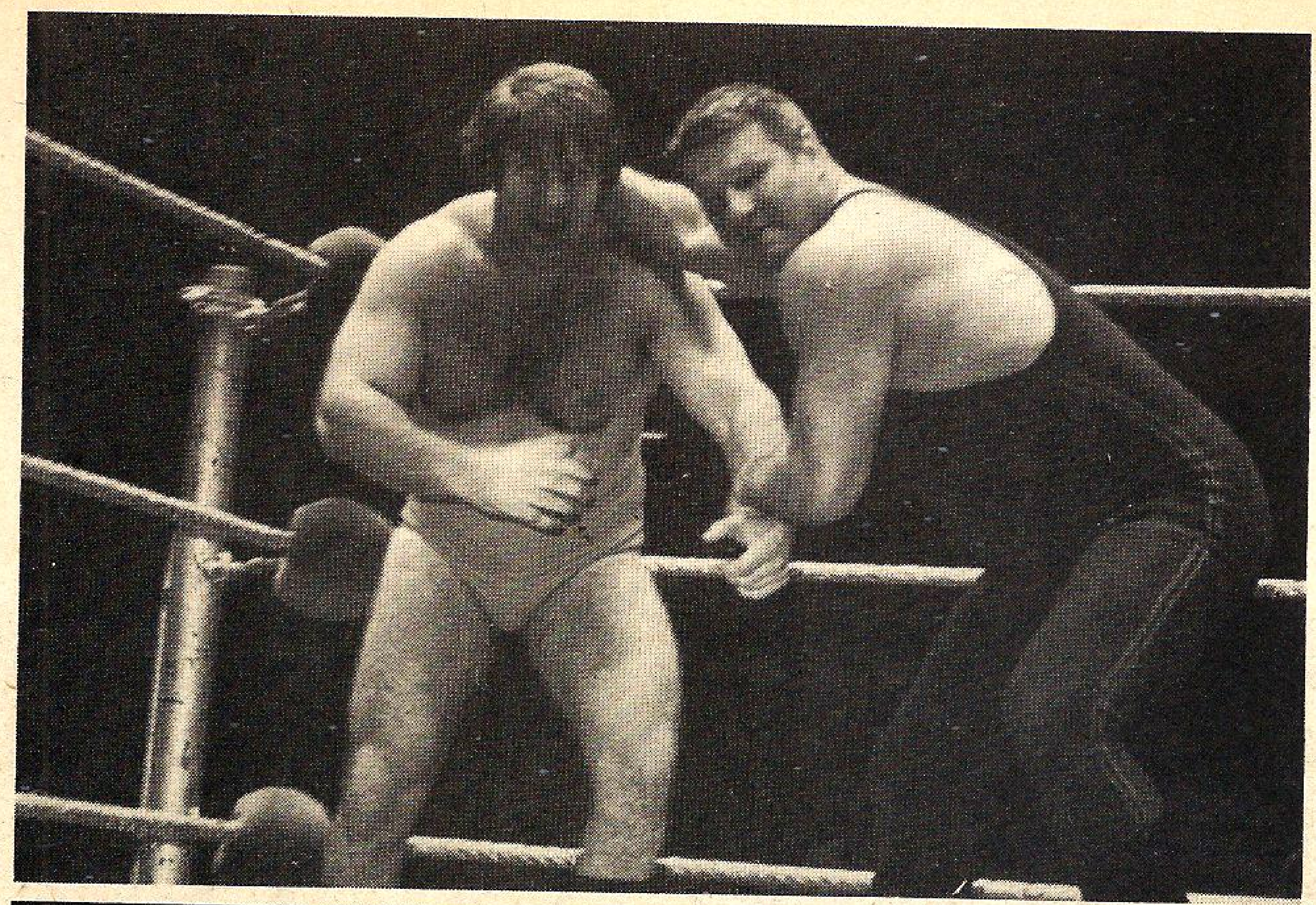
Von Erich walks to center ring, looks to his opponent, his hands on his hips. He smiles a sardonic, evil smile. His opponent comes forward and suddenly Von Erich lashes out with his boot and his opponent doubles up from a kick to the stomach. Then more kicks drive the opponent to the mat. Von Erich kneels and chokes away oblivious of the referee's warning of illegal doings. The one-sided match continues with punches and more kicks. The opponent hasn't much chance and takes the battering. Finally knowing that victory is his Von Erich finishes off his opponent or victim with his pet maneuver, The Prussian Drop.

The Prussian Drop is delivered by Waldo climbing the top turnbuckle and dropping down with a vicious Kneedrop across his opponent's throat or chest. There is nothing left but the mere formality of pinning his man. In the ring Waldo has pinned his opponent just by kneeling across the chest of his beaten opponent, hands on his hips, a wide grin on his face.

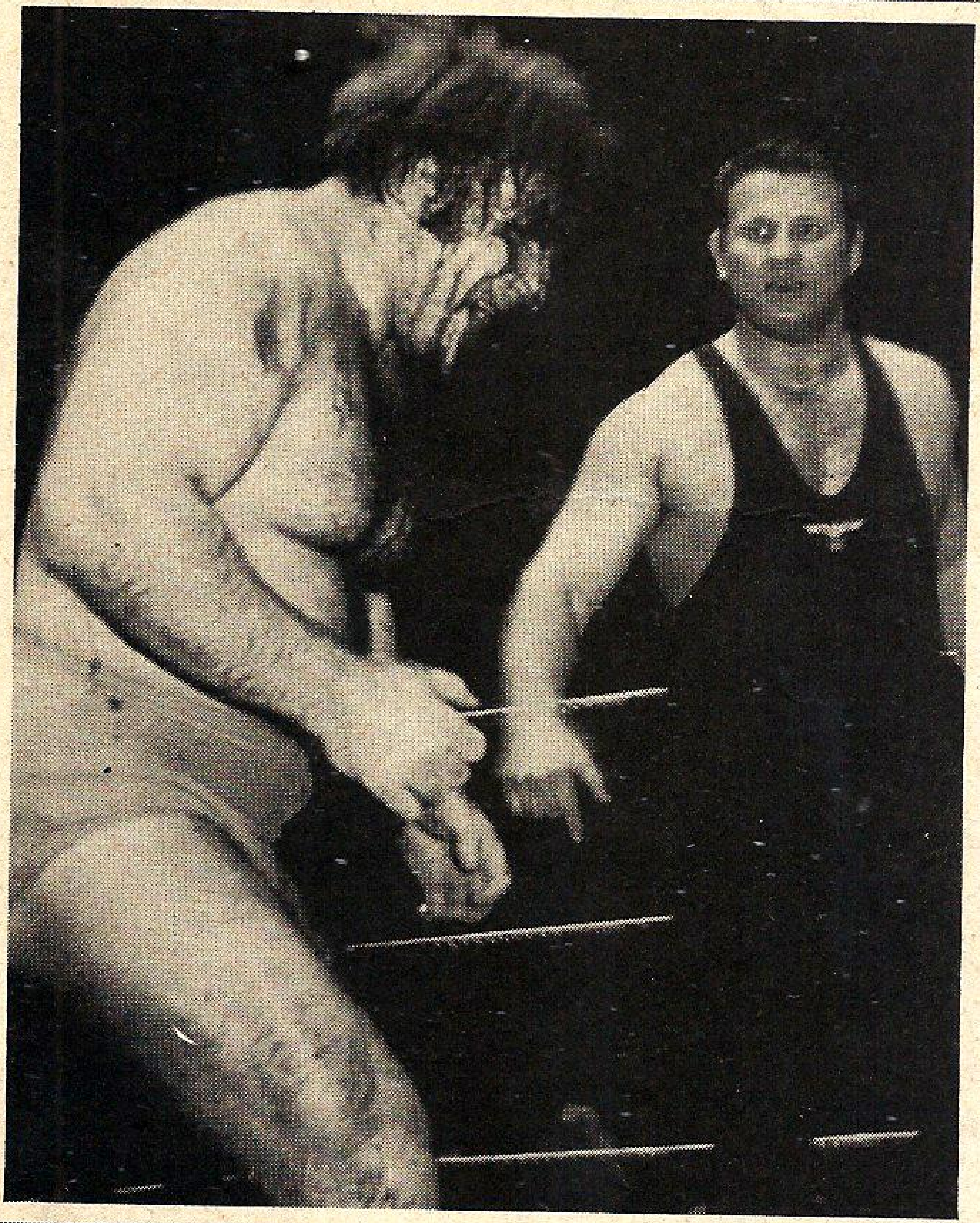
In their dressing room Blassie is exuberant. He could not be happier. He says, "Did you see the way Waldo Von Erich totally outclassed his man? Not a fight from him. Know why? Because he was beaten mentally even before the bell rang for the match. Then that beautiful Prussian Drop. Did you know that Waldo has a force of over 3000 pounds flying off that top turnbuckle? Just like a German bomb. It was just beautiful."

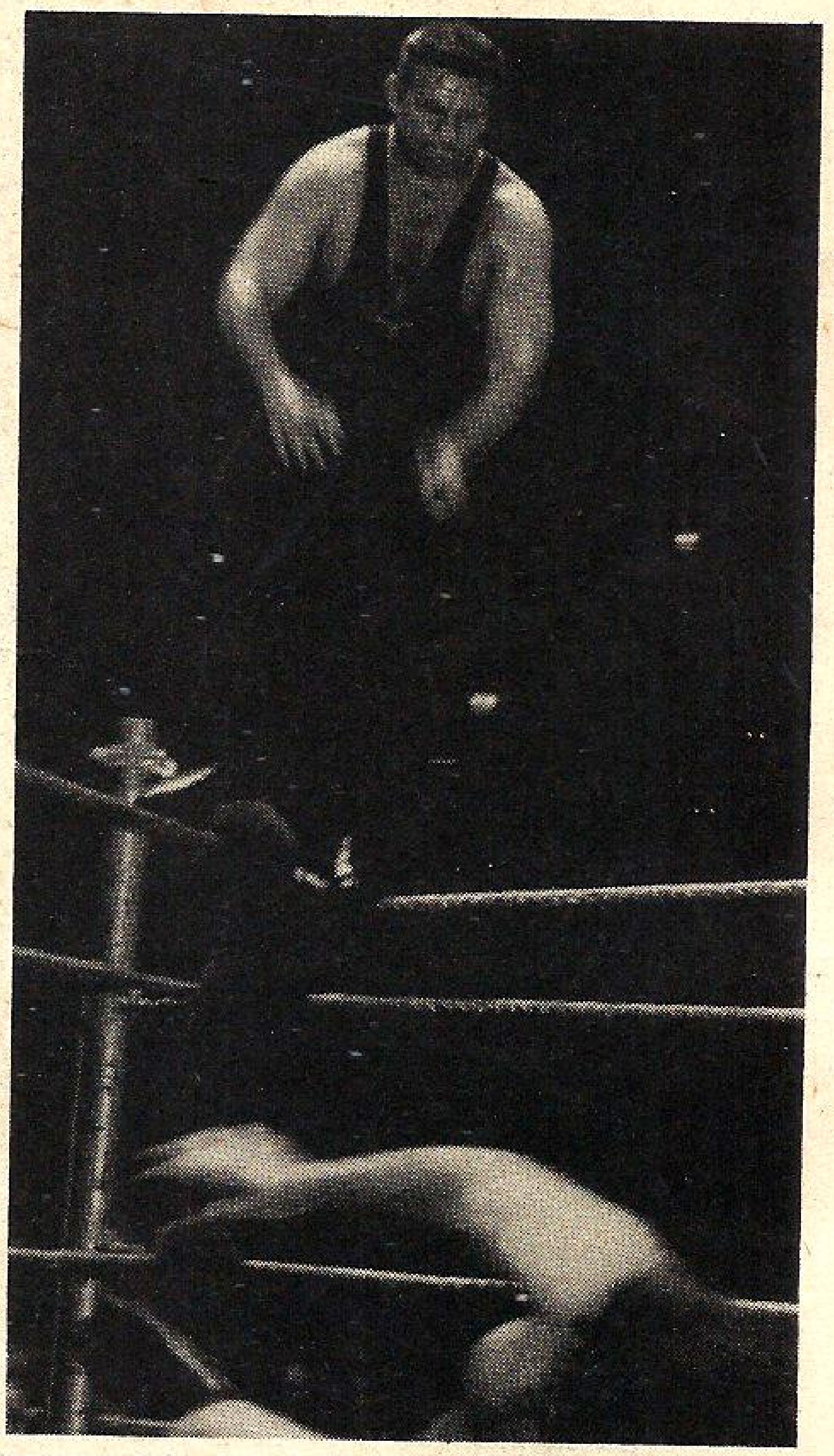
Von Erich, removing his black boots in a corner, just smiles. He says, "I have perfected that hold. No other wrestler in the world can deliver that maneuver like I do. No wrestler can ever get up from that maneuver either. Once it is done I have complete victory. For the Fatherland. For all Germans. I have made my friends in Stuttgart, Germany proud of me."

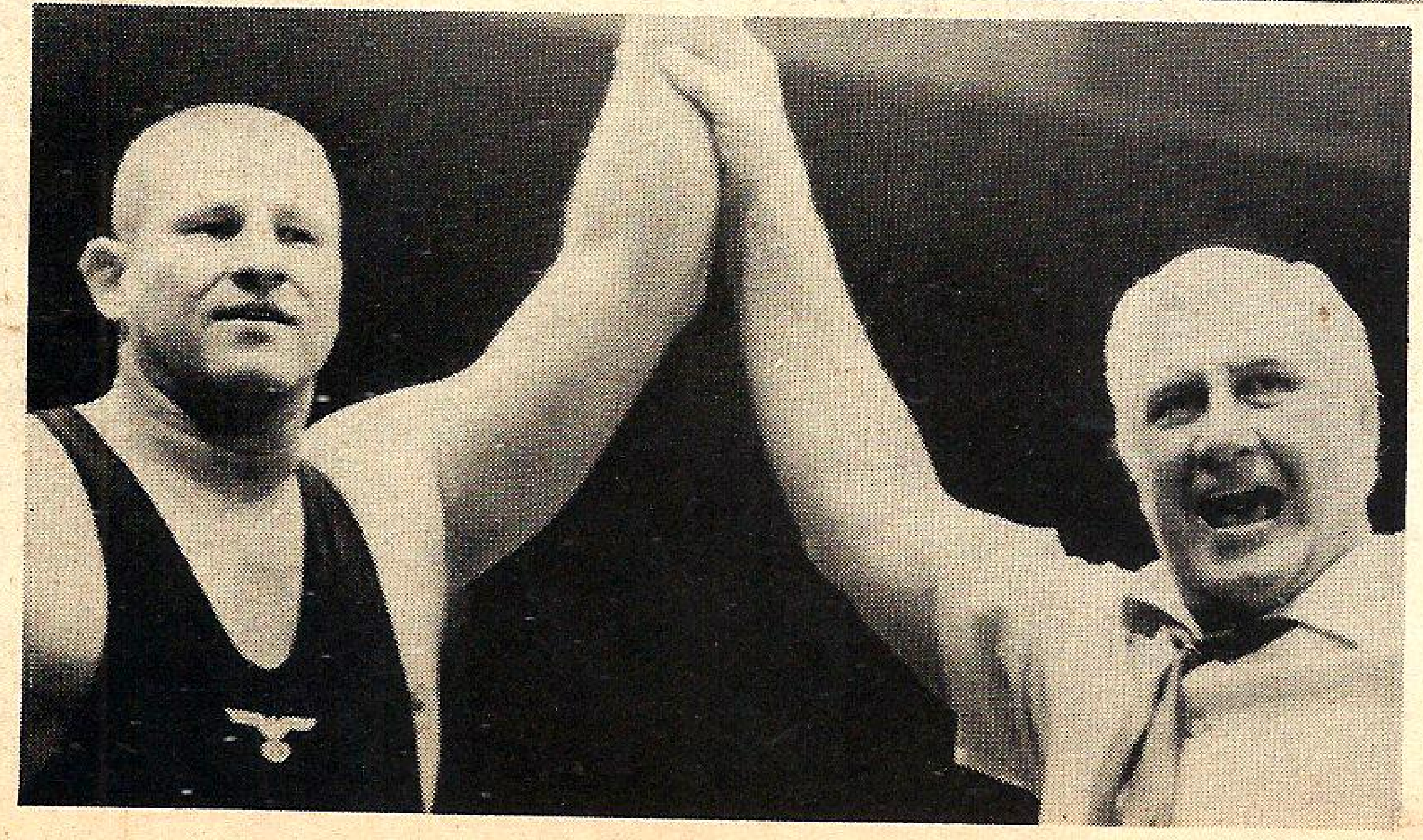
Blassie loves when the press wants to interview him and his protege. He can't wait to extoll the exploits of his army of wrestlers. He says, "In Waldo Von Erich I have the pride of Germany. He is mean, vicious, rotten and above all cruel. Just what I want in a wrestler. No scruples whatsoever.



Von Erich prepares to send Sammartino tumbling across the ring. Waldo claims: "I've been cheated out of the title many times. The belt is rightfully mine."

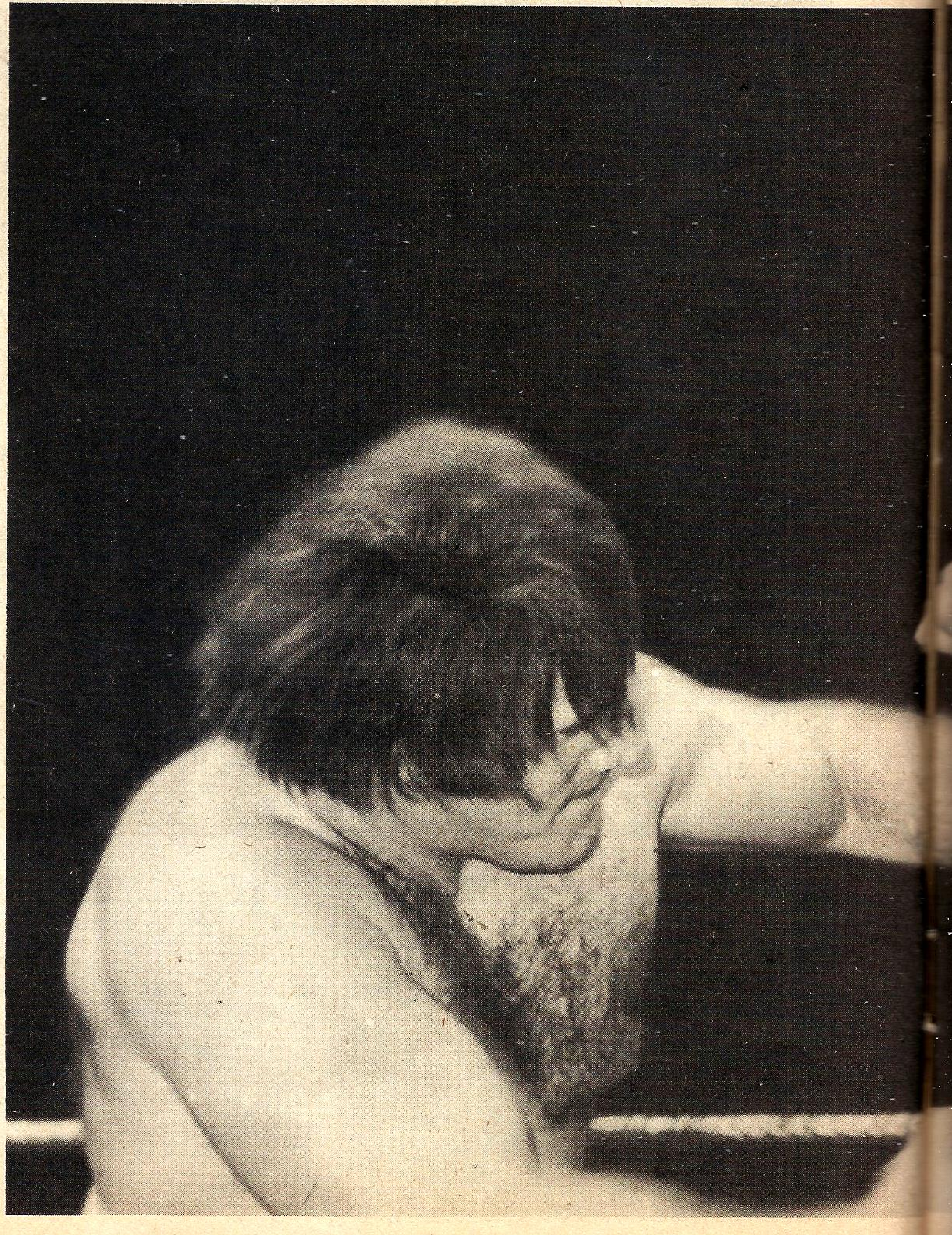






The blood flows profusely from Sammartino's face, upper left. Above, Von Erich begins to jump from the top rope in his famous Prussian Drop. And, for all anybody cares, Blassie holds his wrestler's arm up to signify a victory.

Growling, Von Erich starts to move in on Sammartino. Von Erich and Sammartino have waged some brutal matches. "I am Sammartino's master," boasts Von Erich. "He shakes in his trunks when he knows he must face me."



Victory means more to him than jewels, finest of champaignes, prettiest of women. He'll do anything to win. My kind of wrestler. We will go all the way to the title. We'll take Bruno Sammartino's belt away and send him back to Italy on the lowest of garbage ships. Back where he can crush grapes for a living."

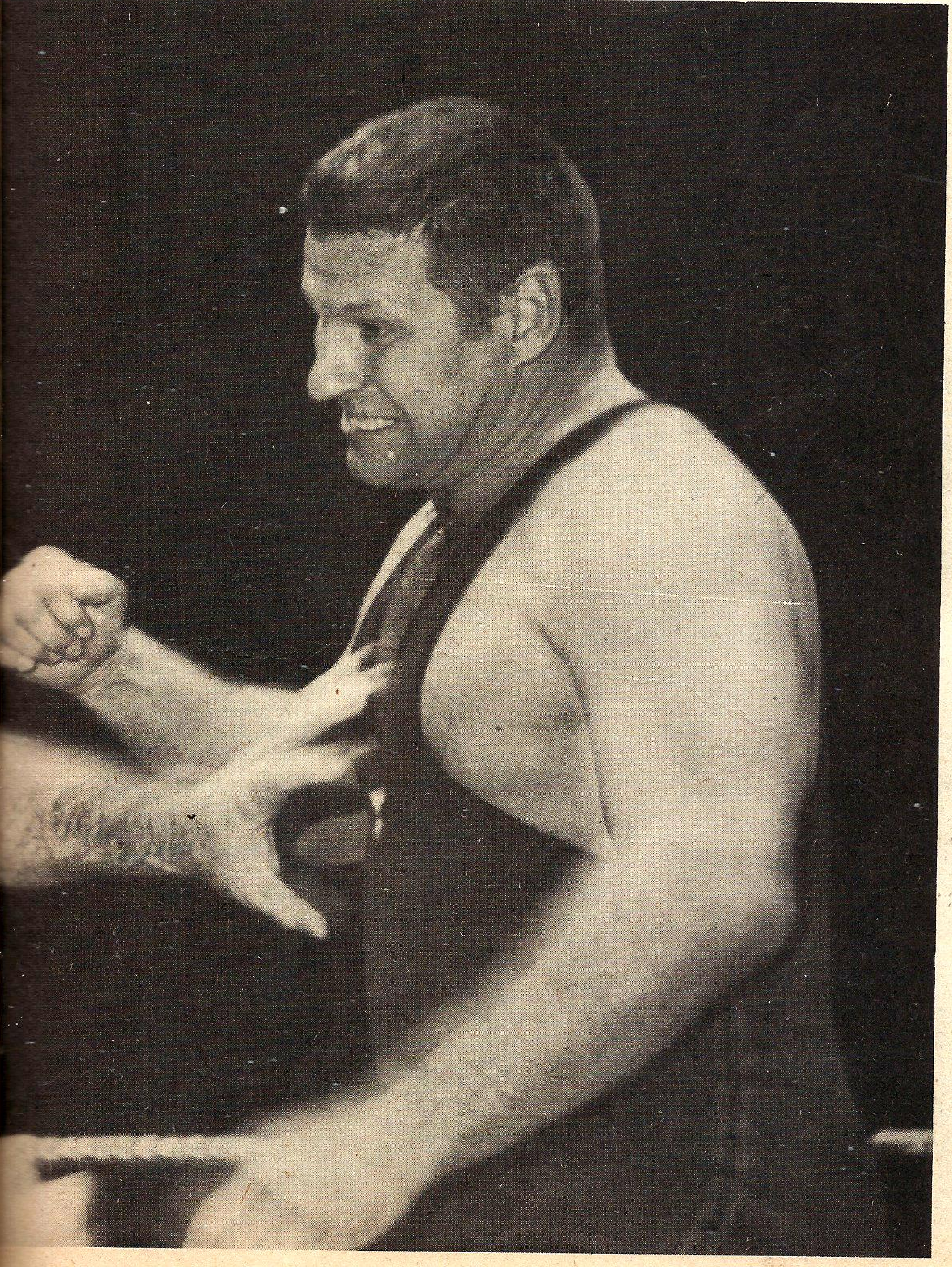
Since early 1974 Blassie, former great mat star turned manager, has had great success in the managerial field. His first protege was Nikolai Volkoff from Siberia. Then came Shozo Kobayashi of Japan. Then, The Wolfman from Canada, Spiros Arion from Crete, Greece and now Erich. All are foreigners rather than American wrestlers. Why?

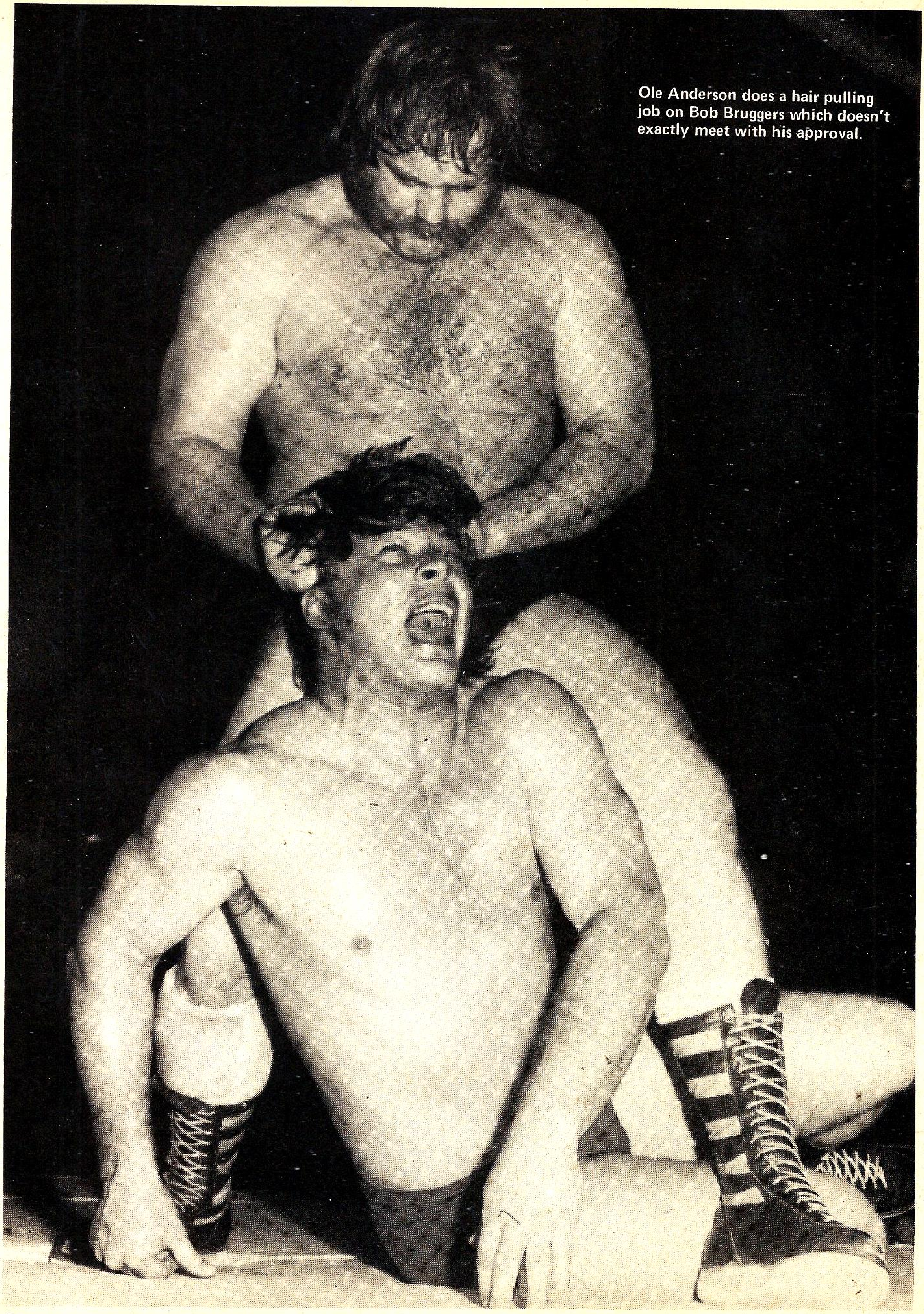
Blassie has this answer, "I have found that American wrestlers aren't mean enough. Not hungry enough. I want someone I can mold into what I want in a wrestler. Someone mean like myself. I was the greatest wrestler ever. I was the meanest of all wrestlers. I haven't found that here in the states. So I look across the waters. I believe I have found the right formula for getting the WWWF belt."

Blassie has been wanting the WWWF title for over a decade now. Without success. First as a wrestler. Now as a manager he plans on capturing it. The same can be said of Erich's chances for winning the WWWF gold belt. He has been trying since 1964 without much success.

Von Erich first tried in 1964 and had the longest match against Bruno Sammartino for the title. It went one hour

(Continued on page 36)





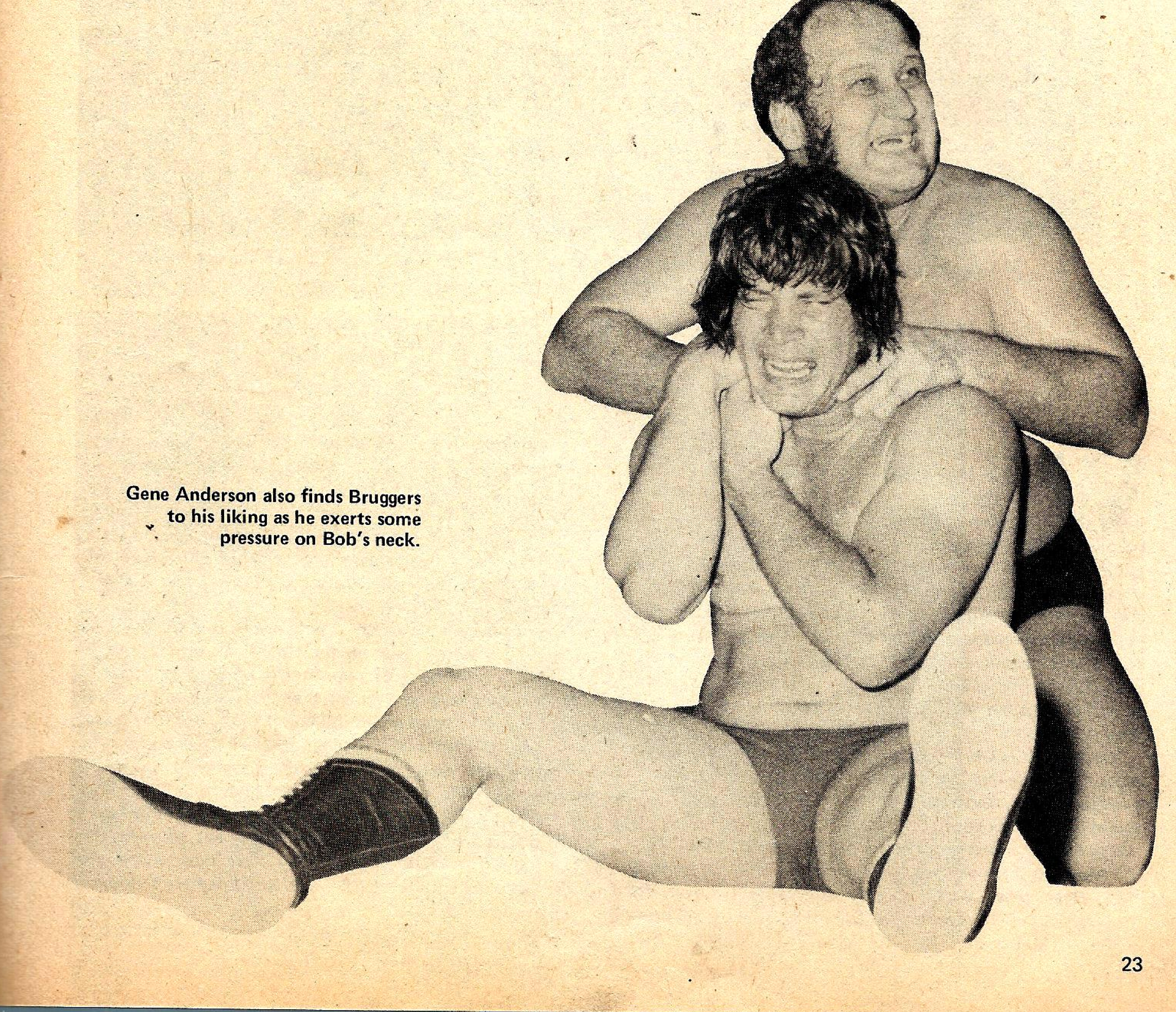
Ole Anderson does a hair pulling job on Bob Bruggers which doesn't exactly meet with his approval.

The Andersons:

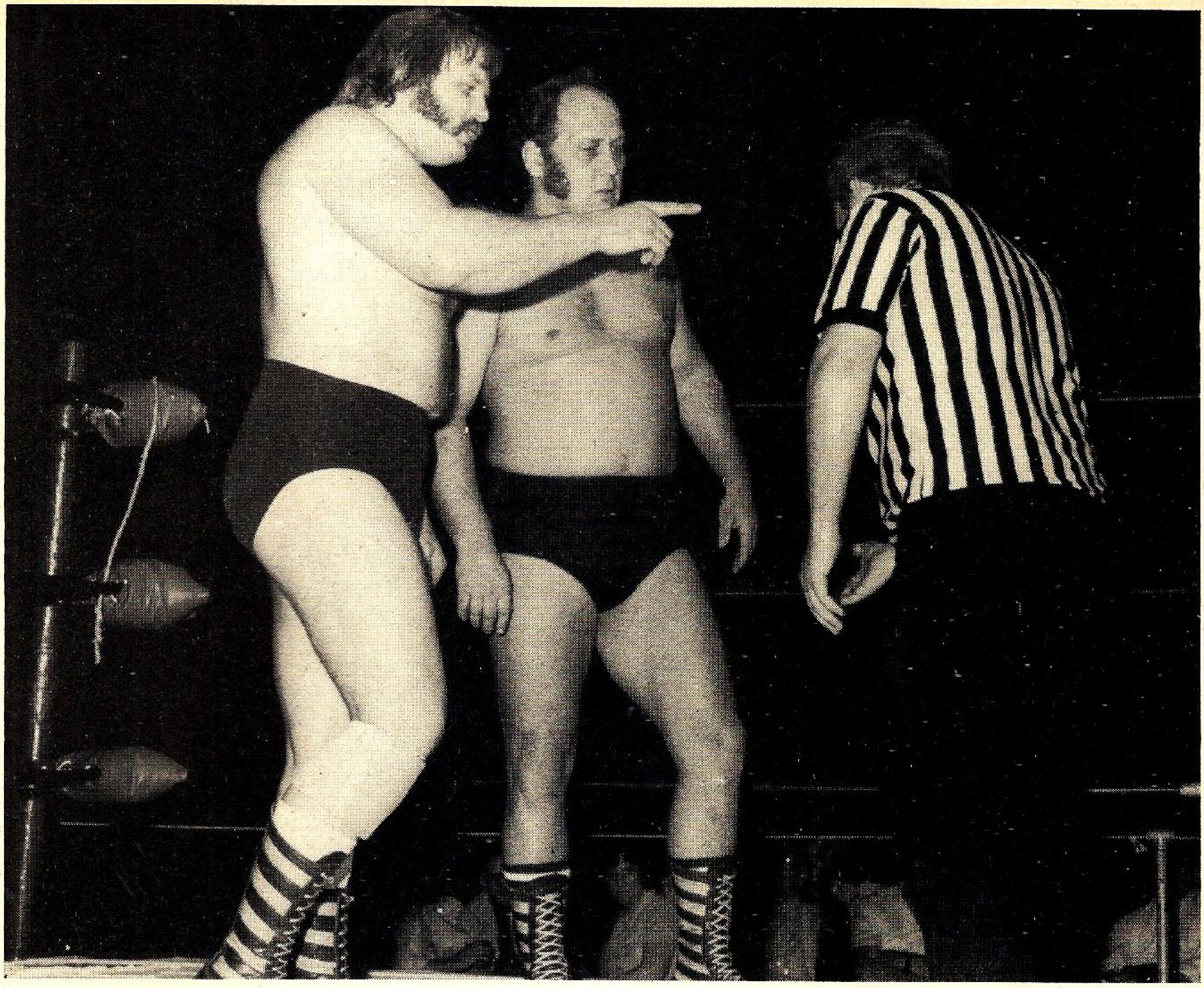
Are They The Best Tag Team?

They may well be. They certainly have won enough titles. But, they have one more thing going for themselves that other tag teams don't — togetherness.

BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO



Gene Anderson also finds Bruggers to his liking as he exerts some pressure on Bob's neck.



The Andersons have been known to make their feelings known. This time Ole, left, and Gene emphasize a point with the referee.

We don't have to shout or scream, rant or rave to let the world know how good we are. We let our actions and our many accomplishment in the ring speak for themselves. We are simply the best tag team in the sport and there isn't a team around today or yesterday for that matter that can come close to matching our accomplishments in this sport. We don't have to go around wearing flashy ring outfits, bleaching our hair or prancing around the ring trying to show off our bodies before our matches. Doing this doesn't make you a winner! What counts is the amount of talent that you have and together my brother and I are the most talented men in the sport."

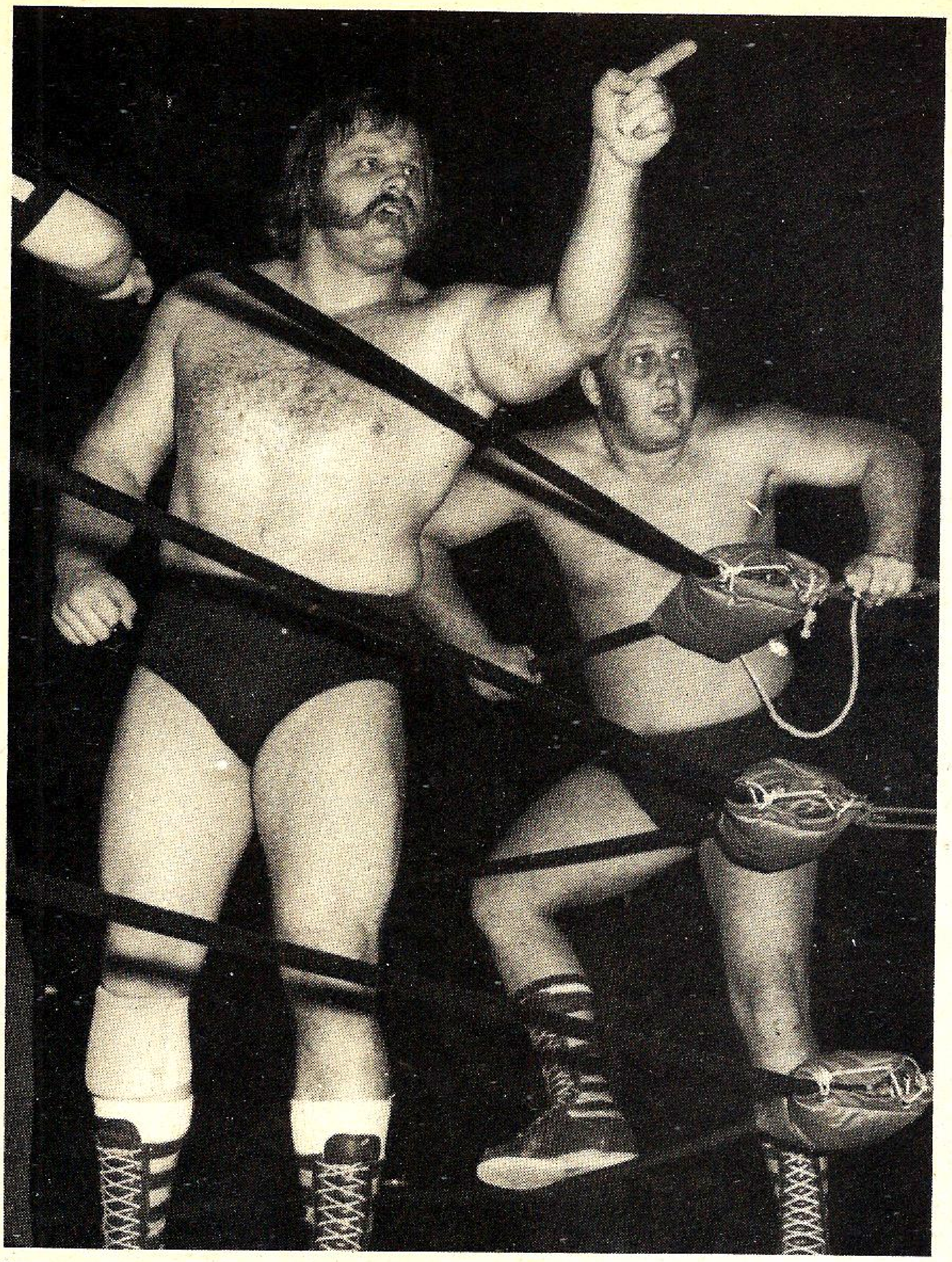
The speaker is Ole Anderson who along with his brother Gene, comprise one of the most devastating tag teams in wrestling. The Anderson Brothers are presently N.W.A. World's Tag Team champions.

Watching the Andersons in action one would immediately see what tag team wrestling is all about. The Andersons in their career have captured title after title all over the country and their combination has to be one of the most perfected in the sport. "We're family," Ole stated. "And this immediately gives us an edge over 95% of our competition. Gene and I have no personal jealousies and either one of us could be World's Champion individually if we so desired. But we have more pride and personal satisfaction when we capture those tag team titles throughout the world. We've been wrestling together all our lives and this alone makes us the best working tag team combination in the sport."

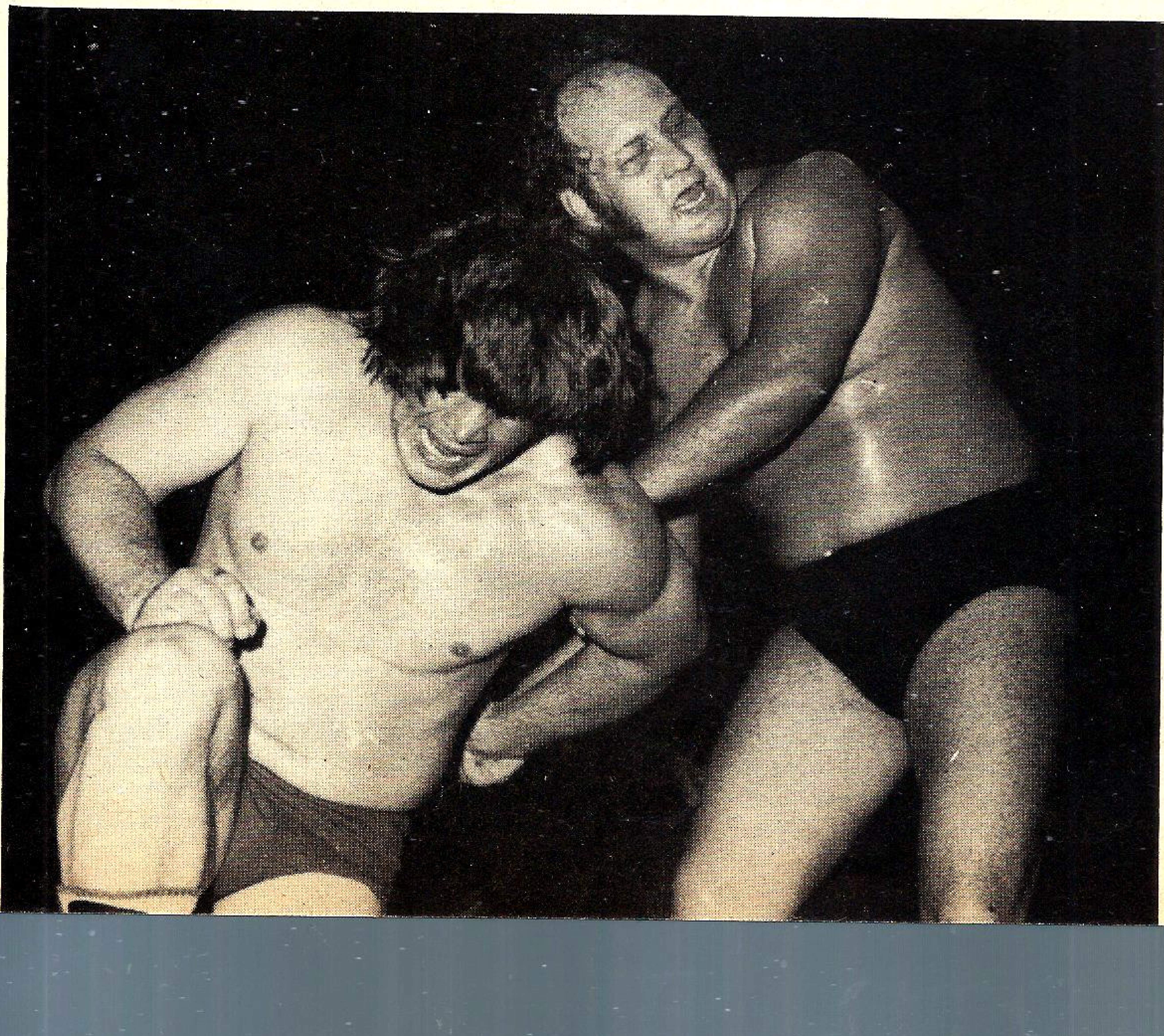
In an Anderson match one would notice that the brothers always have a fresh man in the ring at all times ready to dish out a large dose of punishment on their opponents. This constant tagging weakens their opponent to the point where the Andersons are in full command. Once they get in this position there's no stopping the two Minnesota natives.

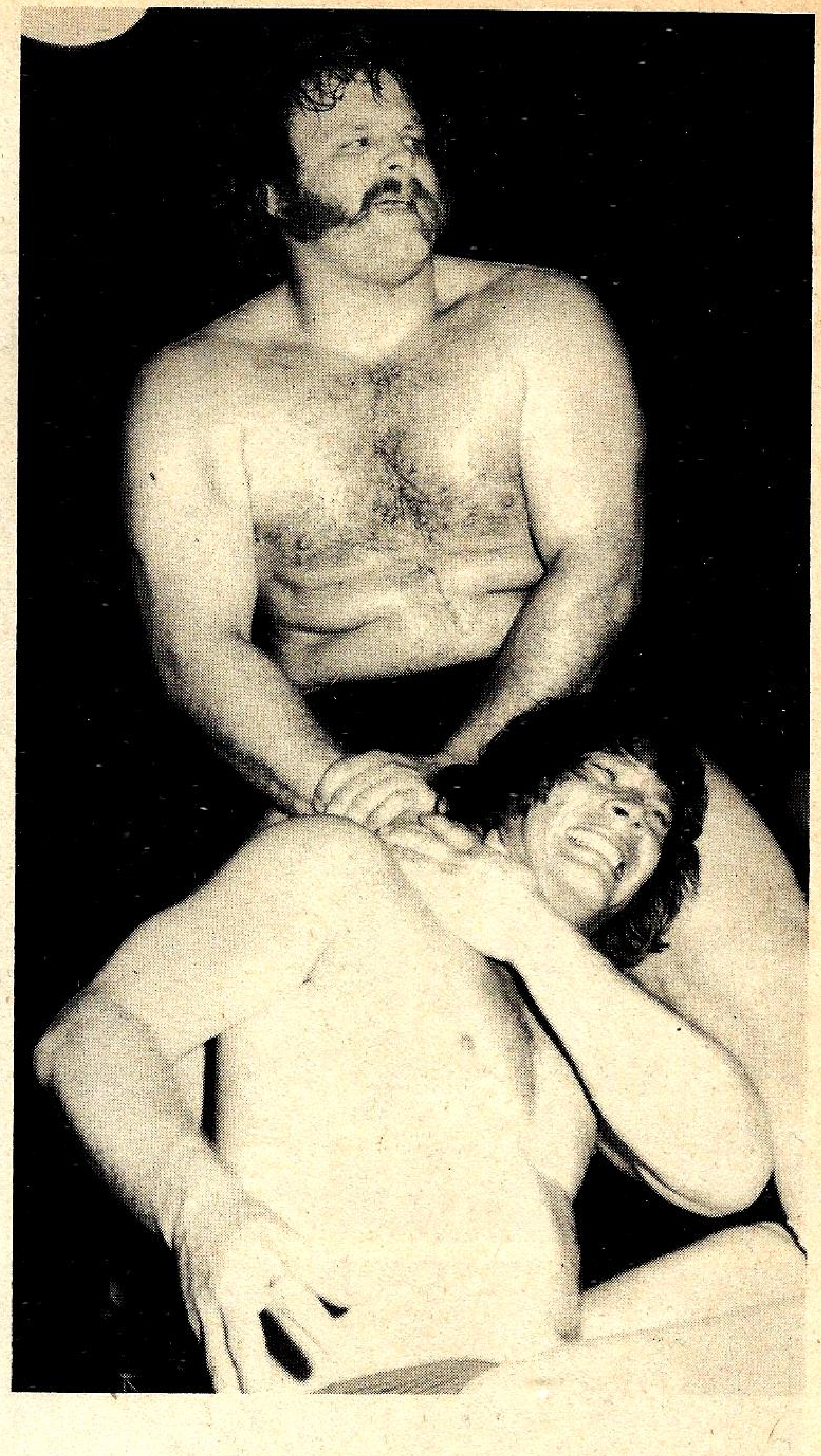
Through the years Gene and Ole have been known to wrestle scientific at times, but the Andersons definitely prefer the rough house style to all others. The brothers have been accused of using of a wide assortment of objects in their quest for victory, and they have been suspended several times for their illegal ways. But this hasn't stopped the Andersons one bit.

"We've been unjustly accused of everything imaginable,"

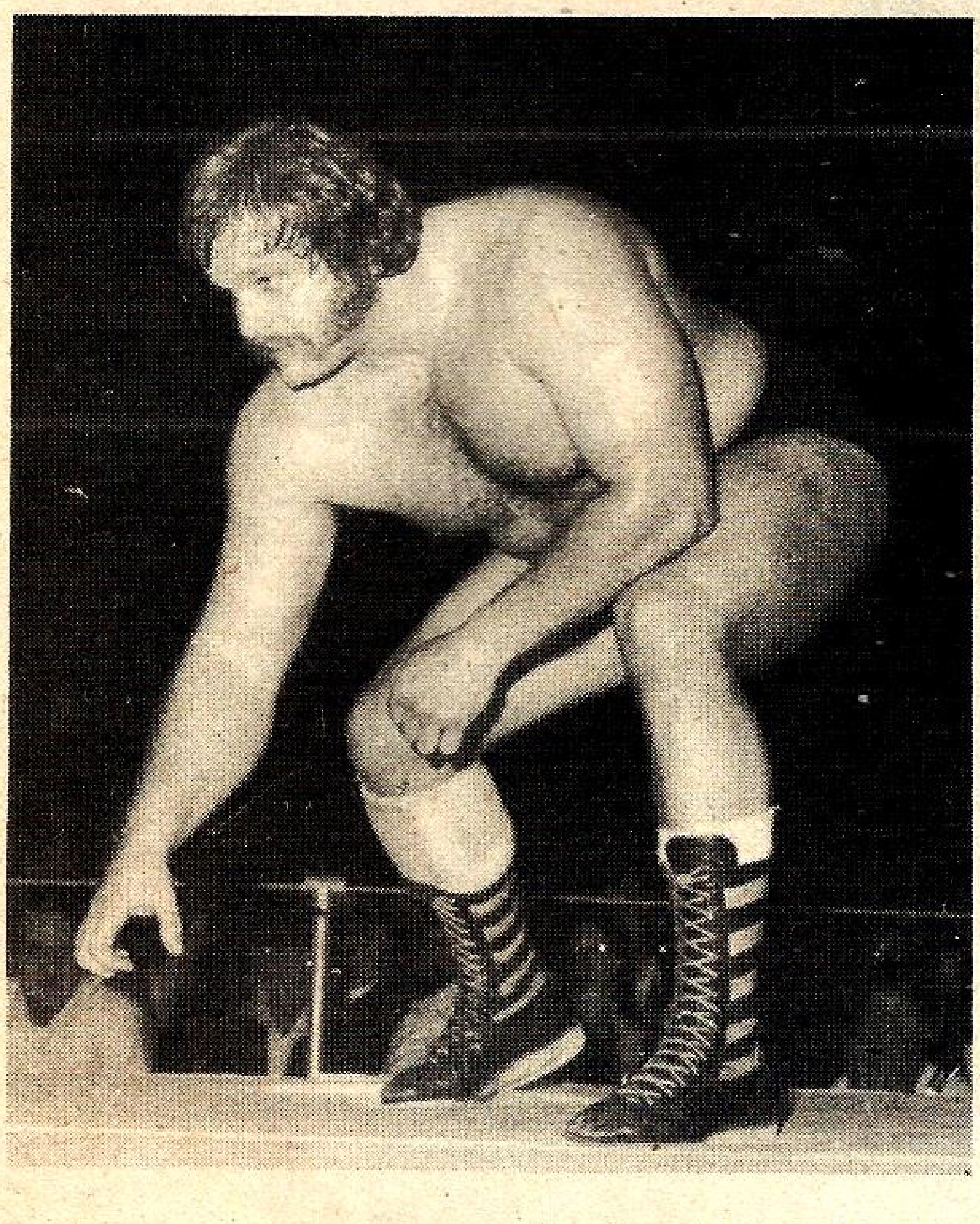


Turning to the fans, Ole points emphatically at a spectator, as if warning him, as Gene climbs the ropes for a look. Below, Gene clamps a reverse wristlock on Bruggers.





Seemingly enjoying the pain he is inflicting, Ole digs deep into the neck muscles of Gruggers. Below, after setting up opponent for the kill, Ole goes into a three-point football stance before he charges.



Ole angrily stated. "People have always been against us because we are so damn good that we can't be beaten fair and square. They say we hide objects in our trunks, put metal in our boots, have grease on our bodies, never have the right man in the ring and I could go on and on and on. Everyday our opponents cry about one thing or the other and the funny thing is that the referees and commissioners after hearing all their bellyaching for so long finally give in to them and disqualify us for nothing. There have been all sorts of stipulations, regulations and demands made against us in an effort to get us beat but no one and I mean no one can ever beat us fair and square when we have an honest, impartial, unprejudiced referee watching our tremendous team in action."

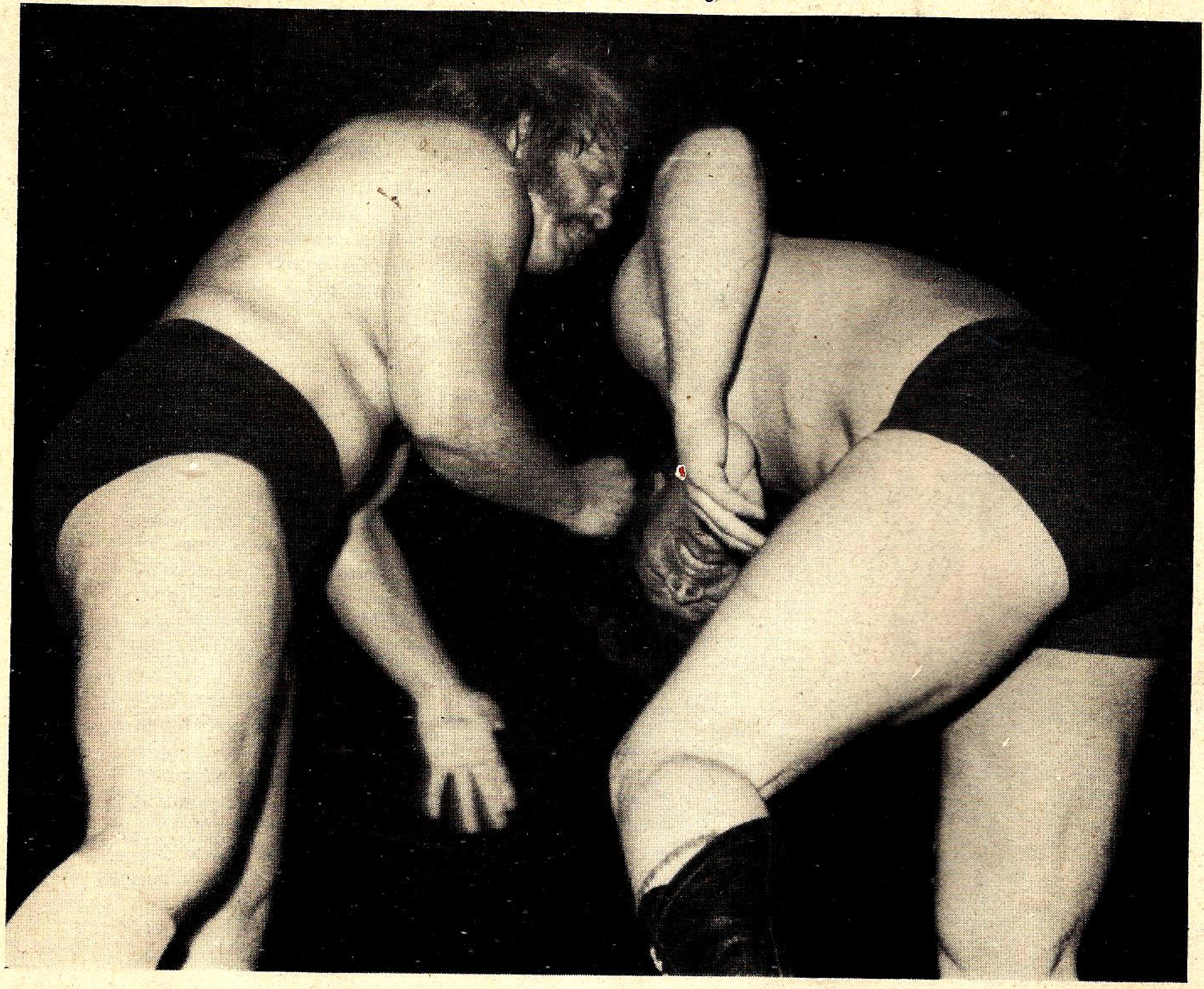
No matter where they appear, whether in the south, the west or the mid west the fans immediately go up in arms the minute the Andersons make their entrance in the arena. The brothers have been viciously attacked by the fans more times than they care to remember. Their ways in the ring so angered fans that the Andersons constantly needed heavy police protection to escort them to the ring, from the ring and out of the arena. This hatred however, goes both ways as the Andersons have openly spoken out about the treatment they received by the fans on many occasions.

"There's really nothing you can do when you're dealing with the kind of low life we constantly come in contact with," Ole stated. "They have no intelligence, brains nor mentality and we don't care at all what they think of us because they don't even have the capacity to think straight."

Ole paused and Gene then chimed in, "We're not out to try to win a popularity contest. Trying to make fans has never won us any matches, gotten us any money, bought us houses, clothes or Cadillacs. We're in this business to make money and our style enables us to win big and make all that nice, green stuff that we all need to survive."

In recent months the top challengers for the Andersons

Ole lands a hard right to Bruggers' face. "We don't care what the fans think of us," says Ole. " Do you know why? Because they don't even have the capacity to think straight."



world tag team title have been Paul Jones and Wahoo McDaniel and this popular duo even held the title for a short time before losing it back to the Andersons in a highly disputed match. Although they are considered to be the number one contenders for the crown, the Andersons feel that McDaniel and Jones don't even deserve to be in the same ring with them.

"That team has got to be the worst tag team that Gene and I have ever come across," Ole stated. "They stink in plain English! Those two guys couldn't wrestle themselves out of a paper bag. Together they're terrible and individually they're simply lousy, no good, talentless wrestlers.

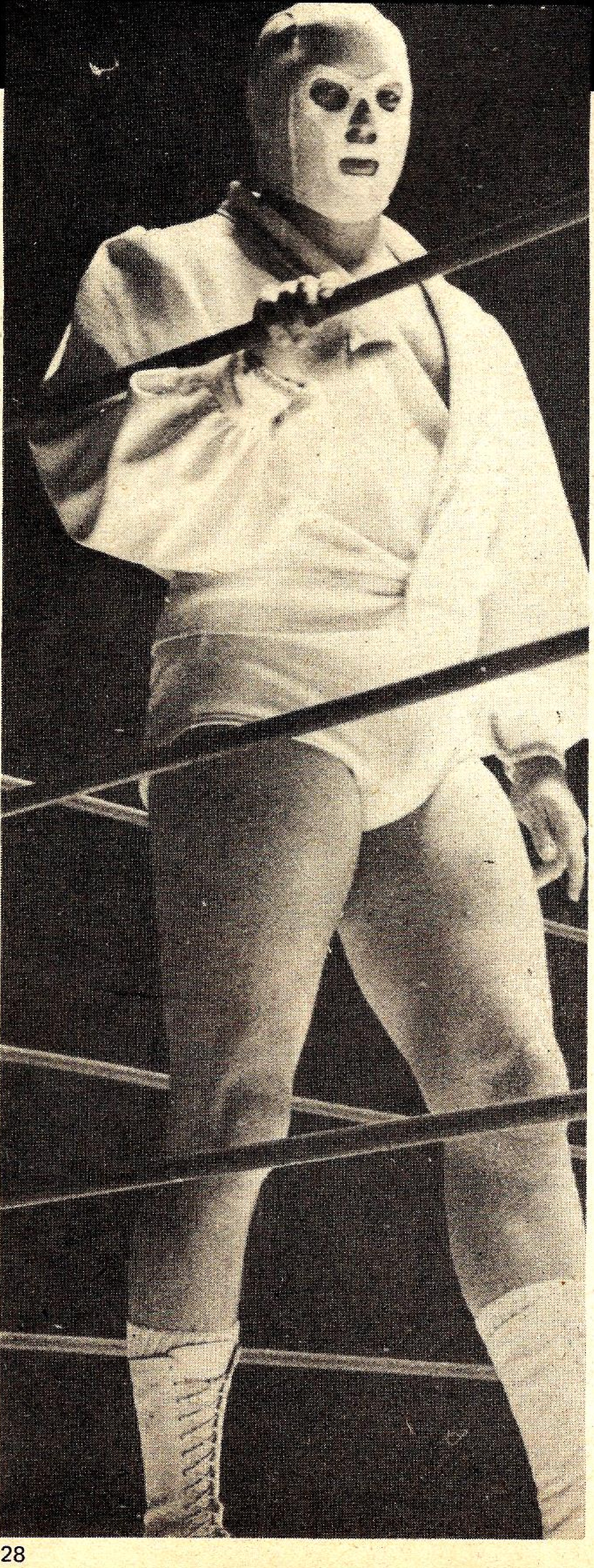
"Let's first talk about Paul Jones. Have you ever checked his amateur background? He doesn't have any! Now how in the world could you compare him to my brother and I in any way, shape or form. The only positive thing I can say is that he is a good little wrestler and if he were competing in the light heavyweight division he might be good. But as a heavyweight he doesn't make it at all.

"Now McDaniel is a story all its own. Wahoo was a football player and he might have been good at football but that doesn't automatically make him a good wrestler. That cigar store Indian never really learned to wrestle like Gene and I. He had no schooling, no training in wrestling. He doesn't know holds, take downs and the rest. He doesn't have the right mental approach to the game and he never will come close to matching the skills that my brother and I possess. With all this that I've related how can Wahoo McDaniel and Paul Jones be classified as the number one challenger for our world's title? If they really are, then the wrestling profession is in a very sad condition!"

Ole paused, smiled and stated, "You know we really are the best. Who's bigger than my brother and I? Who's better, faster, stronger, more skillful, won more titles? I don't know of any team that can adequately fit this description. We are simply the best team that there is in the sport and there is no one that will ever come close to equalling us in the ring."

The SECRET Behind

BY ALLAN BOLTE



If anyone has closely followed professional wrestling over the last few years stops to check, he'll find that many wrestlers stepped into the ring wearing a mask. Some of these hooded grapplers wrestled elsewhere or even in the same area under a different name, and others never before have wrestled. For example, many claim that Mil Mascaras, the great wrestling star from Mexico, has never wrestled anywhere, at any time, without a mask. Perhaps this is true. On the other hand, many masked wrestlers were unmasked by their opponent right in the center of the ring and his discovery was immediately revealed.

One masked wrestler who has been all over the world and always is found right among the top is Mr. Wrestling, a talented grappler who always enters the ring in white for purity and it seems that the fans just love him.

Mr. Wrestling appeared on the West Coast several months ago and the fans liked him the minute they laid eyes on him. Never before had local fans seen a masked wrestler who actually followed the rules; a masked wrestler who spent lots of time signing autographs; a masked wrestler who always wanted to have his picture taken with his fans and always wanted to chat with them about wrestling.

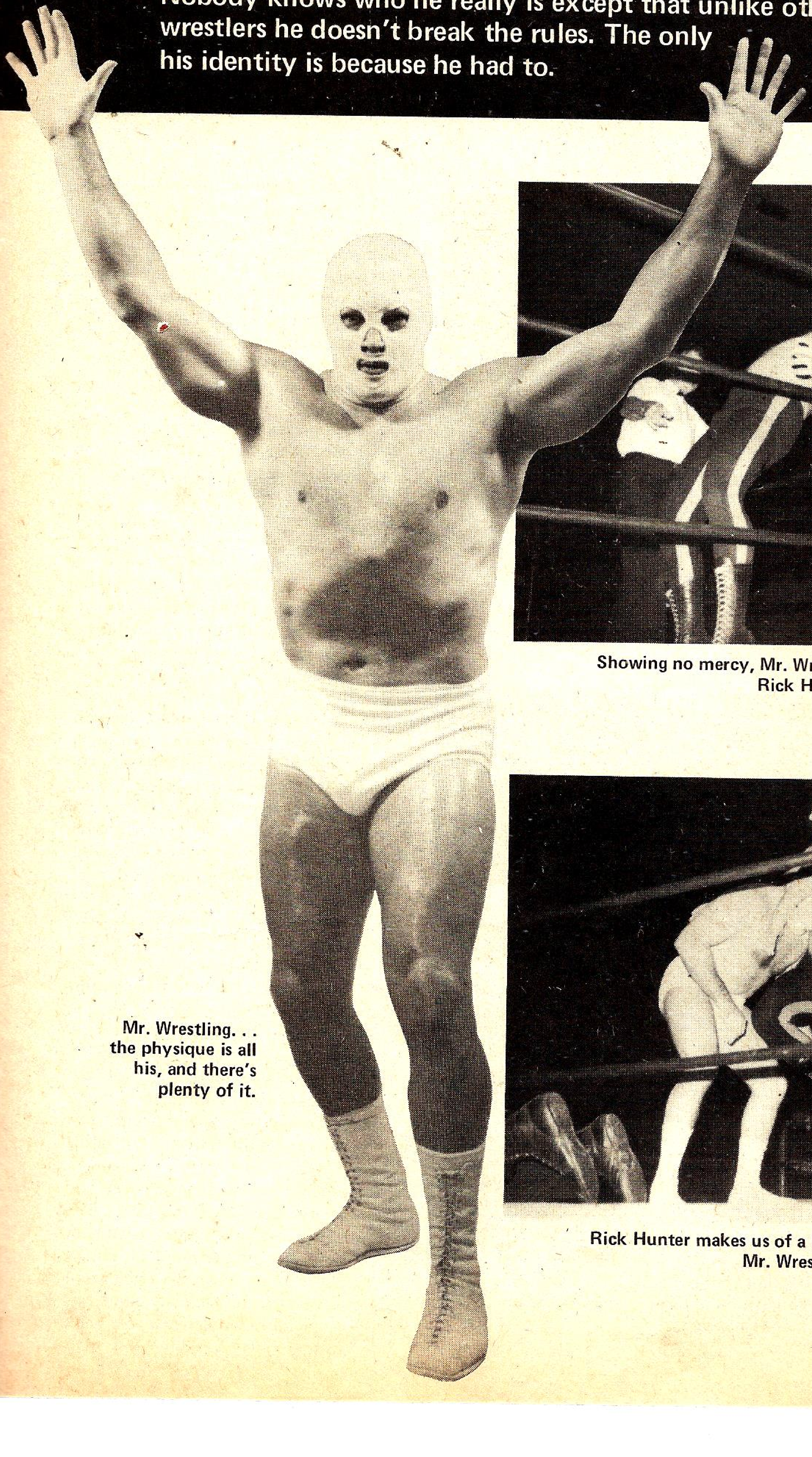
At first, the fans were a little bit leery of Mr. Wrestling. After all, what masked wrestler ever followed the rules? None! And the fans were aware of it.

Let's listen to one fan who gave his comments on Mr. Wrestling's style of grappling and his assumptions of the man when he first appeared on the West Coast.

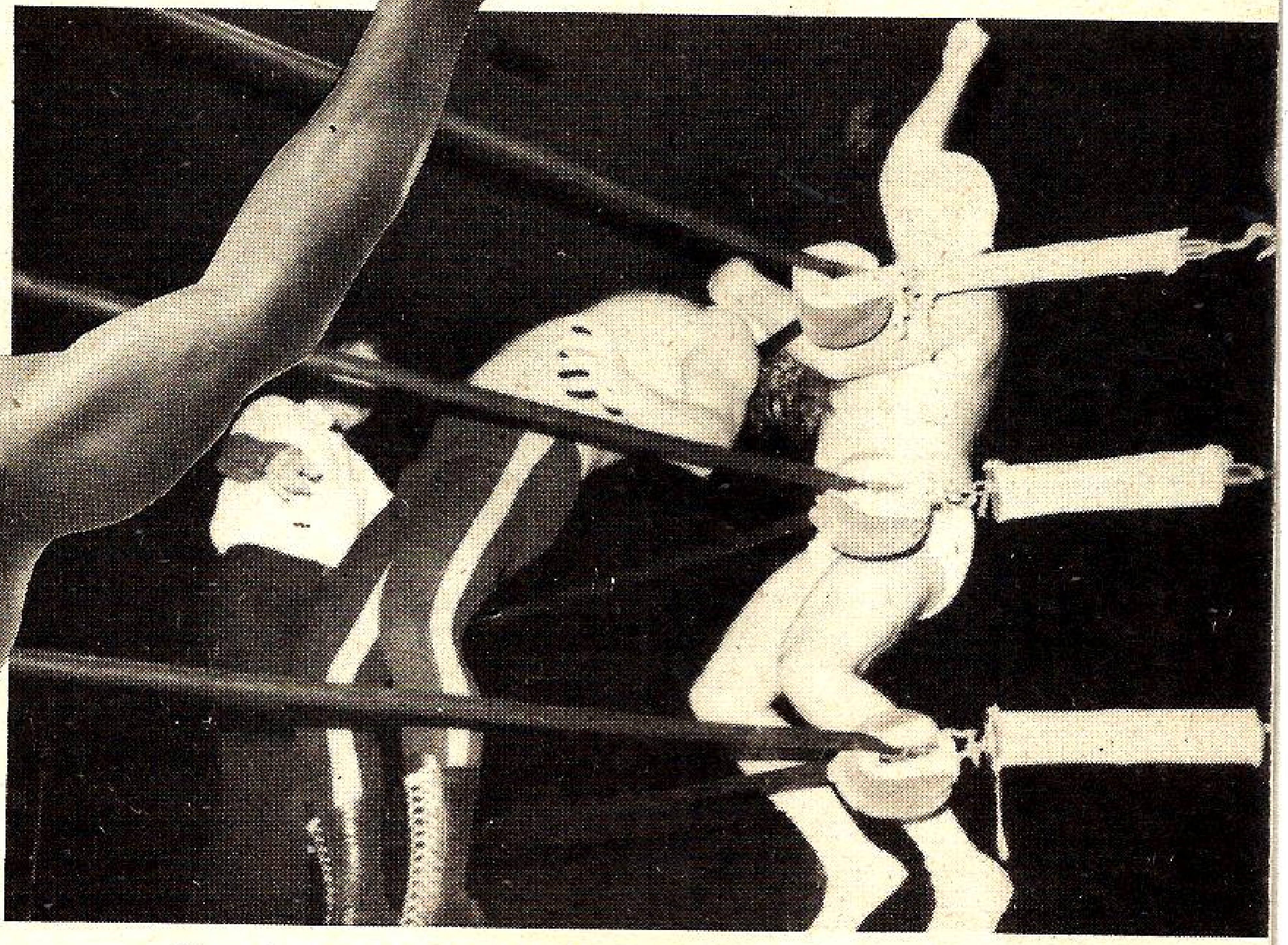
"I've been attending wrestling matches for many years now and I've seen just about all of the big names," he stated. "I've seen many a masked wrestler, too, like The Destroyer, The Interns, The Masked Marvel, and many more. When Mr. Wrestling first came

Mr. Wrestling's Mask

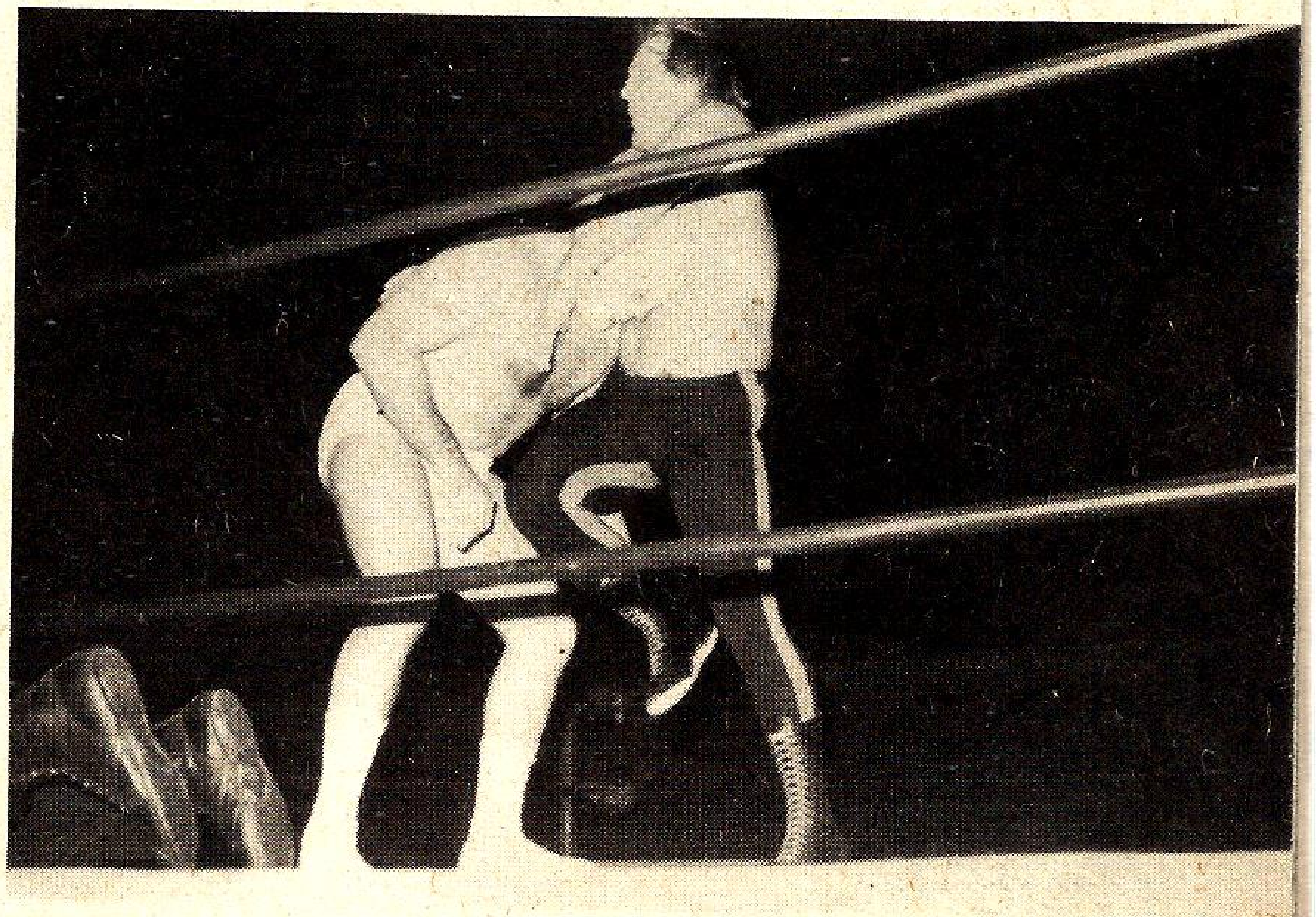
Nobody knows who he really is except that unlike other masked wrestlers he doesn't break the rules. The only reason that he shields his identity is because he had to.



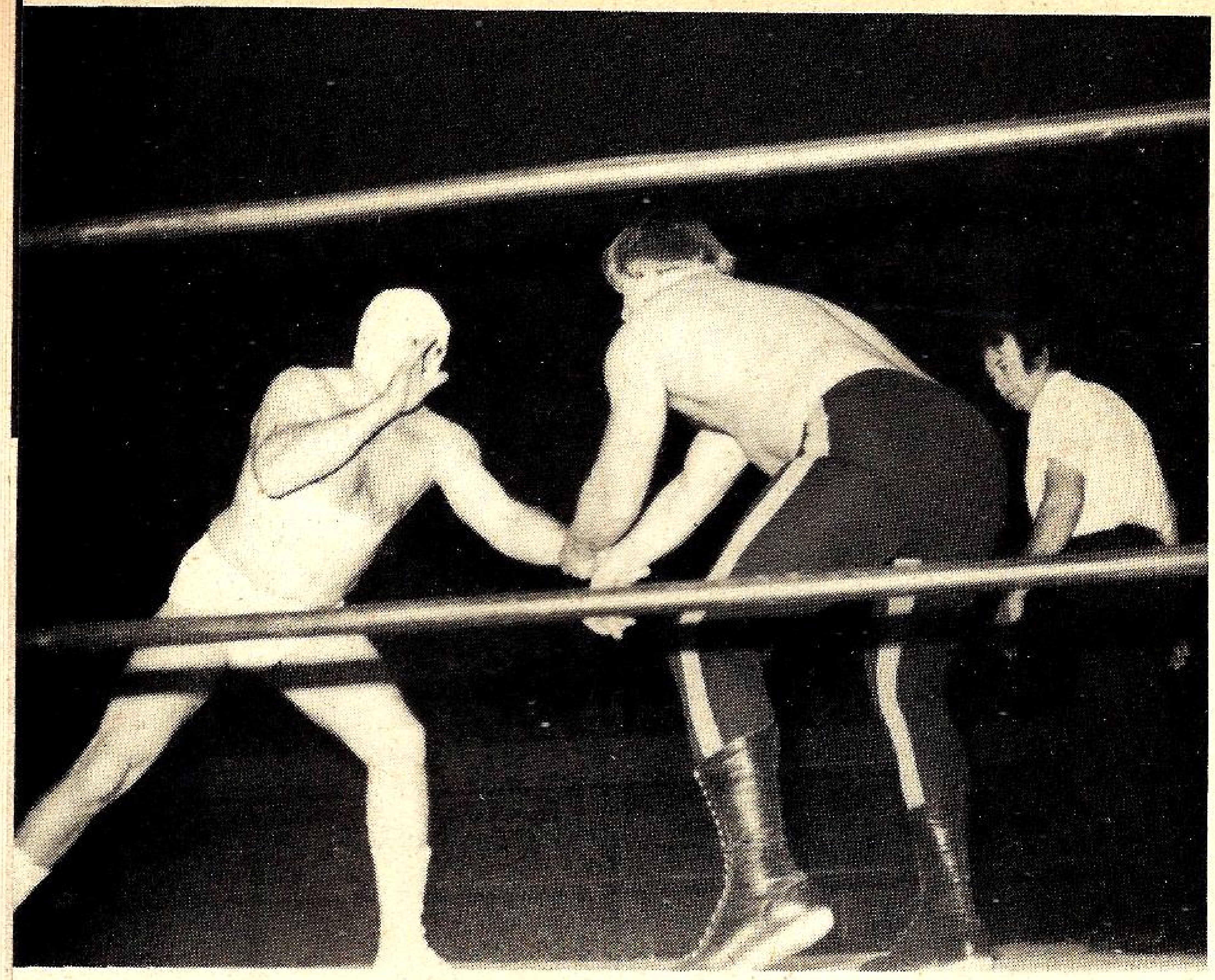
Mr. Wrestling... the physique is all his, and there's plenty of it.



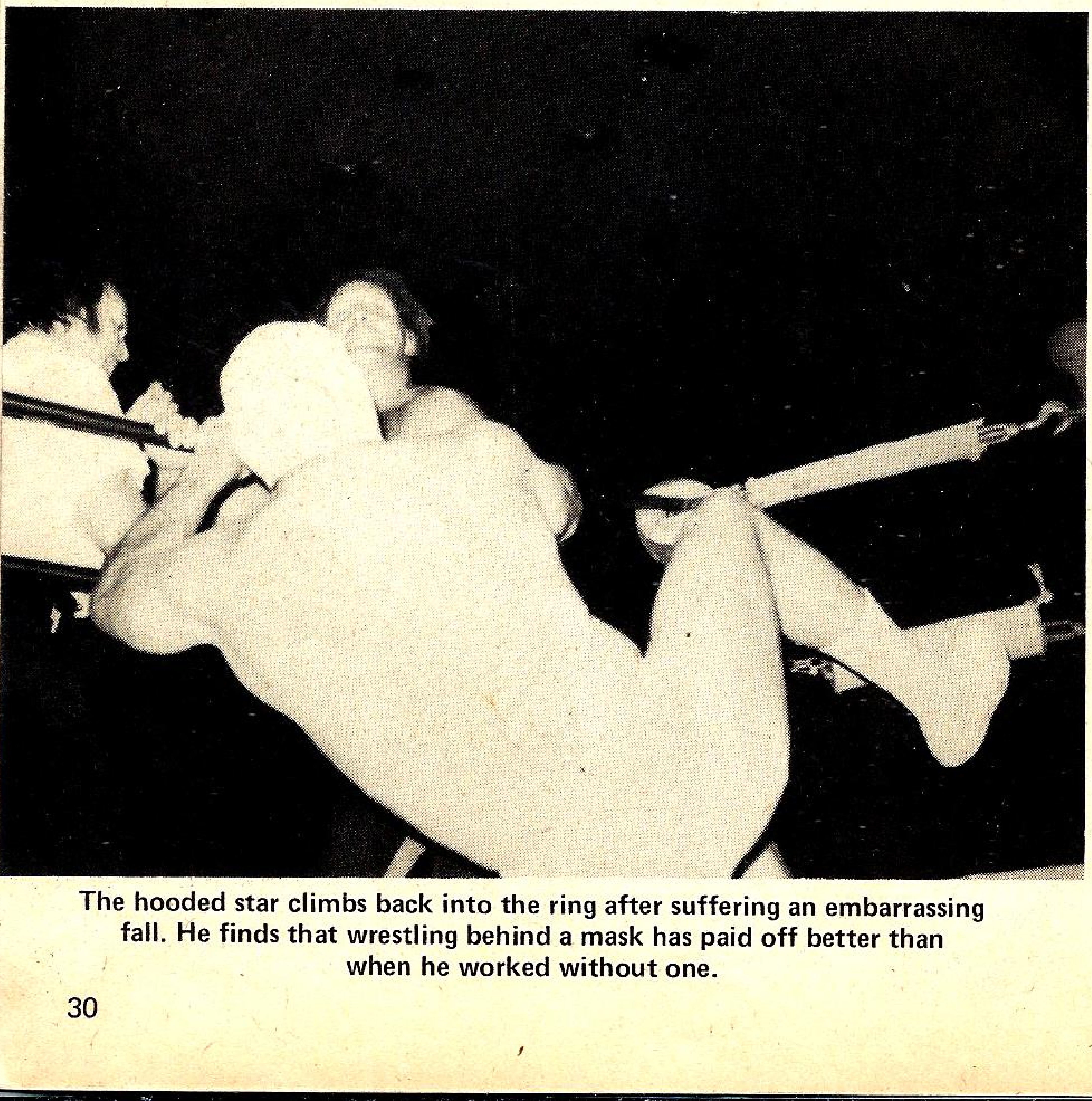
Showing no mercy, Mr. Wrestling clobbers a helpless Rick Hunter.



Rick Hunter makes us of a knee lift to score against Mr. Wrestling.



Mr. Wrestling cautiously moves against Hunter. Although he wears a mask at all times, he is one masked wrestler who most definitely wrestles by the rules.



The hooded star climbs back into the ring after suffering an embarrassing fall. He finds that wrestling behind a mask has paid off better than when he worked without one.

to the West Coast, I really thought that he was going to be unkind to everyone and I thought he would definitely break the rules just like all the other masked men did.

"Well, he entered the ring the first time I saw him and he followed just about every rule there was and I really was quite amazed. Sure, he broke a few rules but this occurred only after his opponent had done so. Most of the fans liked him but there were still some, like me, who were a little bit hazy and leery of him.

"I saw him in action again a few weeks later and he was the same guy. The fans were hounding him for his autograph and he was a good, scientific wrestler and this I liked. He soon became one of my favorite wrestlers and he is doing very well for himself in the wrestling business. The only people who don't like him now are his opponents for they know they'll lose the match."

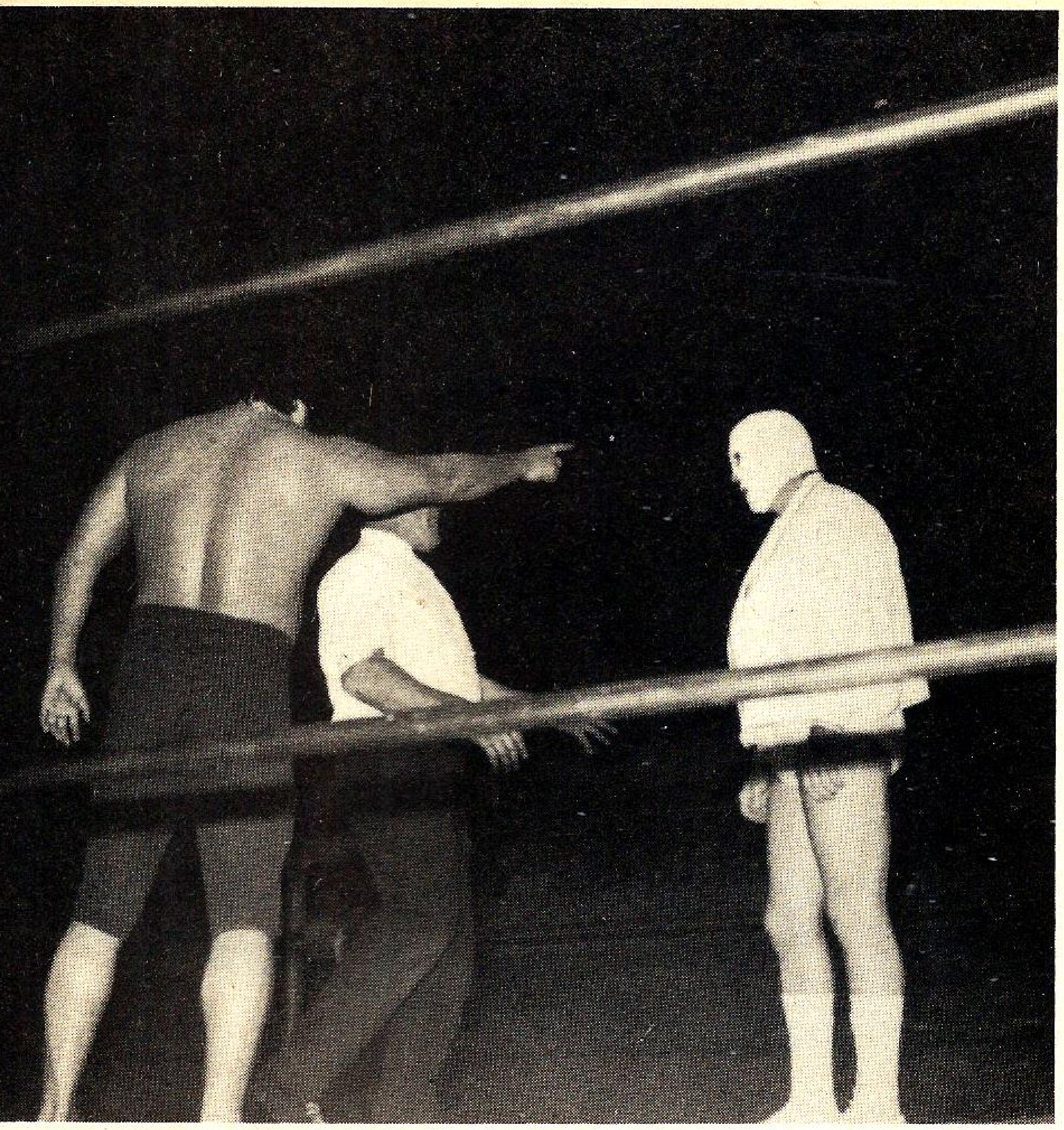
At the present time, the statistics in wrestling indicate that Mr. Wrestling is the most successful masked wrestler of all times and he is currently rated in the top twenty by the National Wrestling Alliance.

However, many people have been wondering just why he chooses to wear a mask? After all, he is undefeated, he is most popular, and he does follow the rules. So, why would he wear the mask?

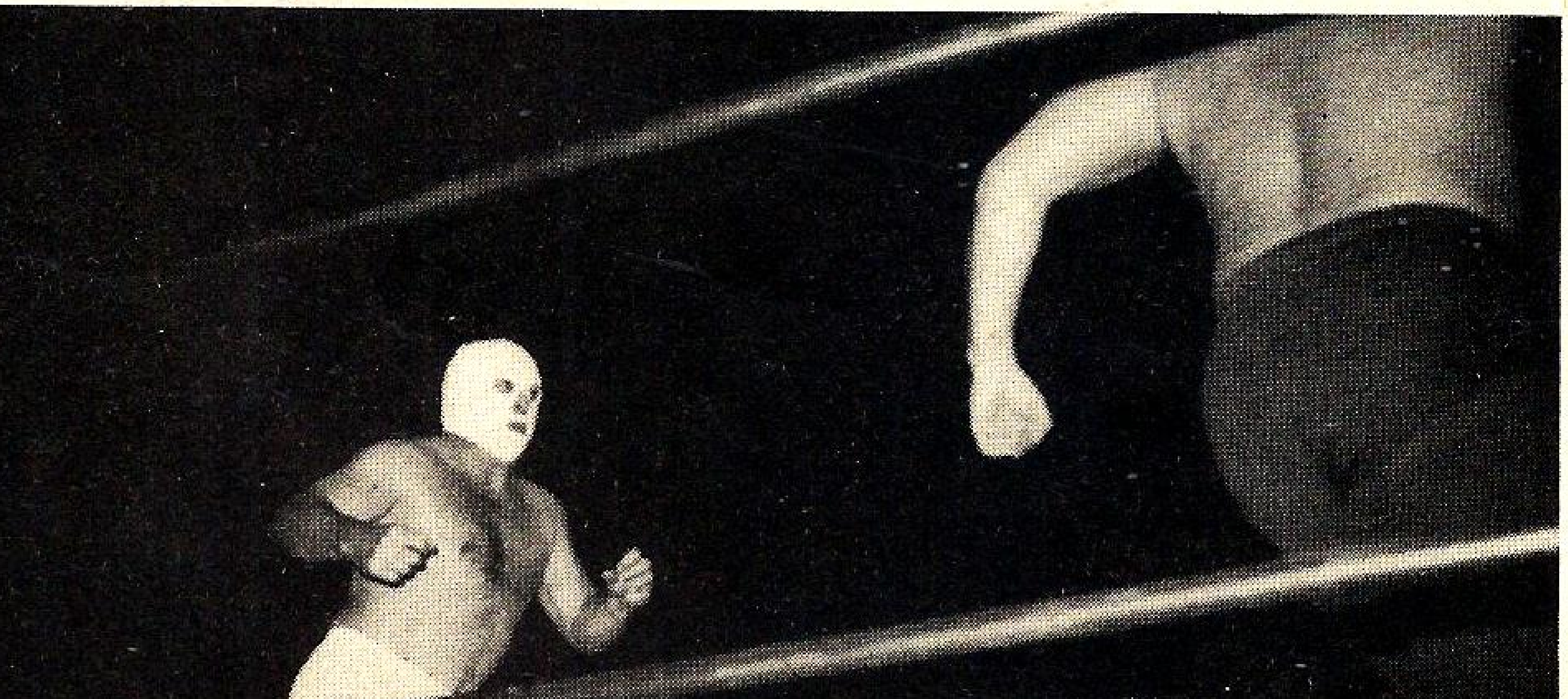
"I have many reasons for wearing my mask but they all really boil down to one main reason," Mr. Wrestling answered. "The reason is very simple. I've been in wrestling for several years now and before I ever put on the mask, I wrestled under my real name throughout the country and I'll admit that I really gained quite a good reputation. I won all of my matches and I travelled all over and promoters were constantly demanding me. Pretty soon, money really became the object and the promoter who was willing to put up the most money was the one who I wrestled for.

"Well, after a while things slowly began changing. The opponents suddenly didn't really want to wrestle me and promoters and bookers had a hard time lining me up with the top talent that I was supposed to be wrestling. So, when I realized that fewer and fewer wrestlers wanted to face me in the ring, I got an idea and it worked.

"The idea was quite simple. I left the area where I had been wrestling and I stayed away from wrestling completely for several months. I put on a mask



Mr. Saito of Japan points to Mr. Wrestling's mask as referee walks over to check.



Mr. Wrestling is in hot pursuit of Mr. Saito who is desperately trying to run away.

and I contacted a promoter in an area where I had never wrestled before and fortunately, he gave me a chance. I was honest with him and I explained to him that I HAD wrestled before without a mask and that I was very successful but I wanted to put on a mask so that my opponents wouldn't know who I was. This way most of them would accept matches with me. I did very well in that area and then I began traveling across the world just like I did when I wrestled without the hood. I was doing just as well with the mask as if I didn't have it on and the people really liked me."

How did Mr. Wrestling feel entering the ring with a mask?

"To be honest with you I felt very strange having a mask on and I didn't know how the people would react to it. Of course, most of them didn't know who I was and many assumed that I was going to break all the rules. Well, I figured that the only way to properly prepare the fans for a masked wrestler who regularly follows the rules was to prove my style to them in the ring. I know that action speaks louder than words and I wanted to produce the action. Soon enough, the fans realized that I wanted to follow the rules and they were all on my side and this is precisely how I wanted it."

Mr. Wrestling is something else. He is an extremely intelligent person and he enjoys talking with people about all different types of subjects and is extremely friendly and warm-hearted. In the ring, his style of grappling is self-explanatory. He wrestles by all the rules and even when his opponents constantly break the rules, it takes a while before he breaks them, too. Not that Mr. Wrestling doesn't know how to break the rules! Quite the contrary. However, he just prefers following them because, as he puts it, it's the only way to wrestle properly.

Many of the wrestling fans, writers and fellow wrestlers claim that they know who Mr. Wrestling is and many magazines have actually printed this information, whether it was correct or not.

"I've read in many wrestling magazines about who I really am and most of these stories are untrue. Some of the wrestling fans do know who I am, and others don't and couldn't care less. All most of the fans are concerned with is my style of wrestling and they seem to thoroughly enjoy it. However, some of the fans think they know who I am and they are free to state it and they are dead wrong. I would like to say that I would naturally prefer not to talk about my identify for obvious reasons."

One of Mr. Wrestling's favorite holds is the abdominal stretch, which is a very common hold in wrestling, but one that only few wrestlers can properly duplicate. He also uses the flying headscissors and flying legscissors and it seems that he spends more time in the air than on the mat. Of course, this is his style of wrestling and it is very successful to him.

Since Mr. Wrestling first entered the West Coast several months ago he has done very well for himself. He defeated many of the big names in wrestling and now, he wants to leave the West Coast and travel elsewhere and try the competition there.

"The wrestlers on the West Coast are rough, tough customers and they are big names, believe me," Mr. Wrestling contends. "I knew that some of the biggest names in the sport could always be found throughout the West Coast, particularly in the Los Angeles-San Francisco areas. Promoter Roy Shire always is booking the leading wrestlers into the Northern California area, and Promoter Mike LaBelle is doing likewise in Southern California and I enjoy working for both of them.

"The main thing I was interested in was meeting the top names in the sport," he added. "I already have been in the ring with such greats as 'Crazy' Luke Graham, The Brute, Kurt and Karl Von Brauner, Kinji Shibuya, The Sheik, Jack Brisco and others and they all have given me some very rough nights. I've tried some of the top men on the West Coast and I think that the roughest wrestlers can be found on the West Coast.

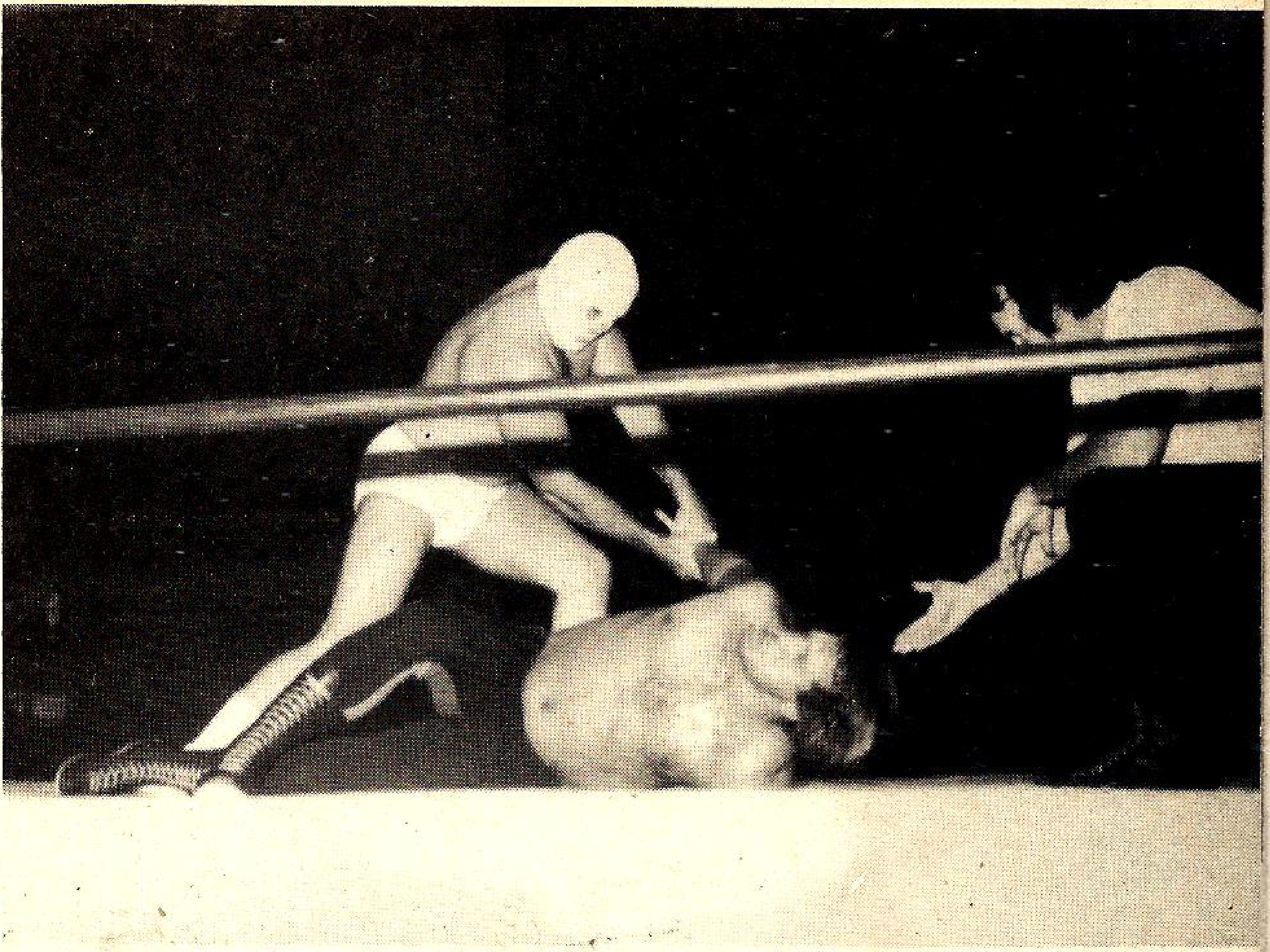
"Now, I want to travel elsewhere to places where I have never been before. Truthfully, I'd like to leave the United States for a while and try some of the wrestlers in Japan, Hong Kong, Africa and the Far East. There are many rugged wrestlers there but I think that I could handle them just like I've handled so many of them in this country."

No one knows Mr. Wrestling's age, background or where he was born and he doesn't care to discuss it with anyone. All anyone really knows is that he stands 6' tall, he weights 241 pounds, he is extremely likeable, and is a very successful wrestler. What more is there to find out?

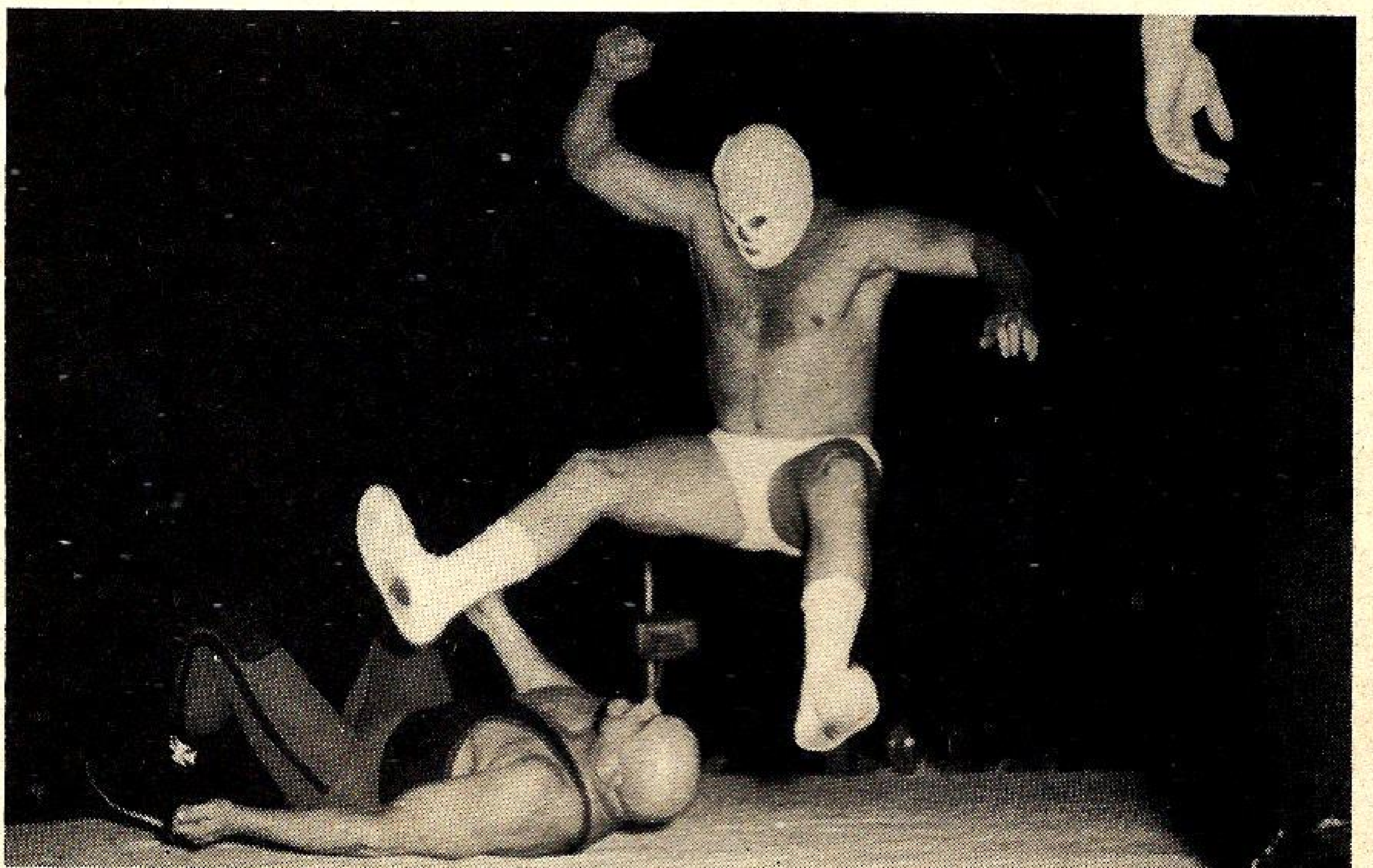
Like most wrestlers, he has received his share of injuries on the mat. He has had broken arms, cracked ribs, twisted pelvises, broken legs and has been split wide open by being slammed head first against ringside posts many times. However, Mr. Wrestling is ready for more action.

Promoter Roy Shire, the man who started it all in the San Francisco area many years ago, couldn't care less about finding out just who Mr. Wrestling is. As far as he is concerned, he can wrestle and that's all that really counts.

"I've been around masked wrestlers for many, many years and I think Mr. Wrestling is one of the finest," claims Shire. "I really don't care who he is, and why should I? All that I am mainly concerned with is the fact that he is an excellent wrestler, he wins most of his matches and the fans really love him. They pay to see him in action so why should I care about who he is? He told me the same thing that he put on the mask because he was winning so many of his matches and he couldn't find any wrestlers to wrestle him. Okay, fine, so I gave him a chance and he did just fine. That's all I'm concerned about."

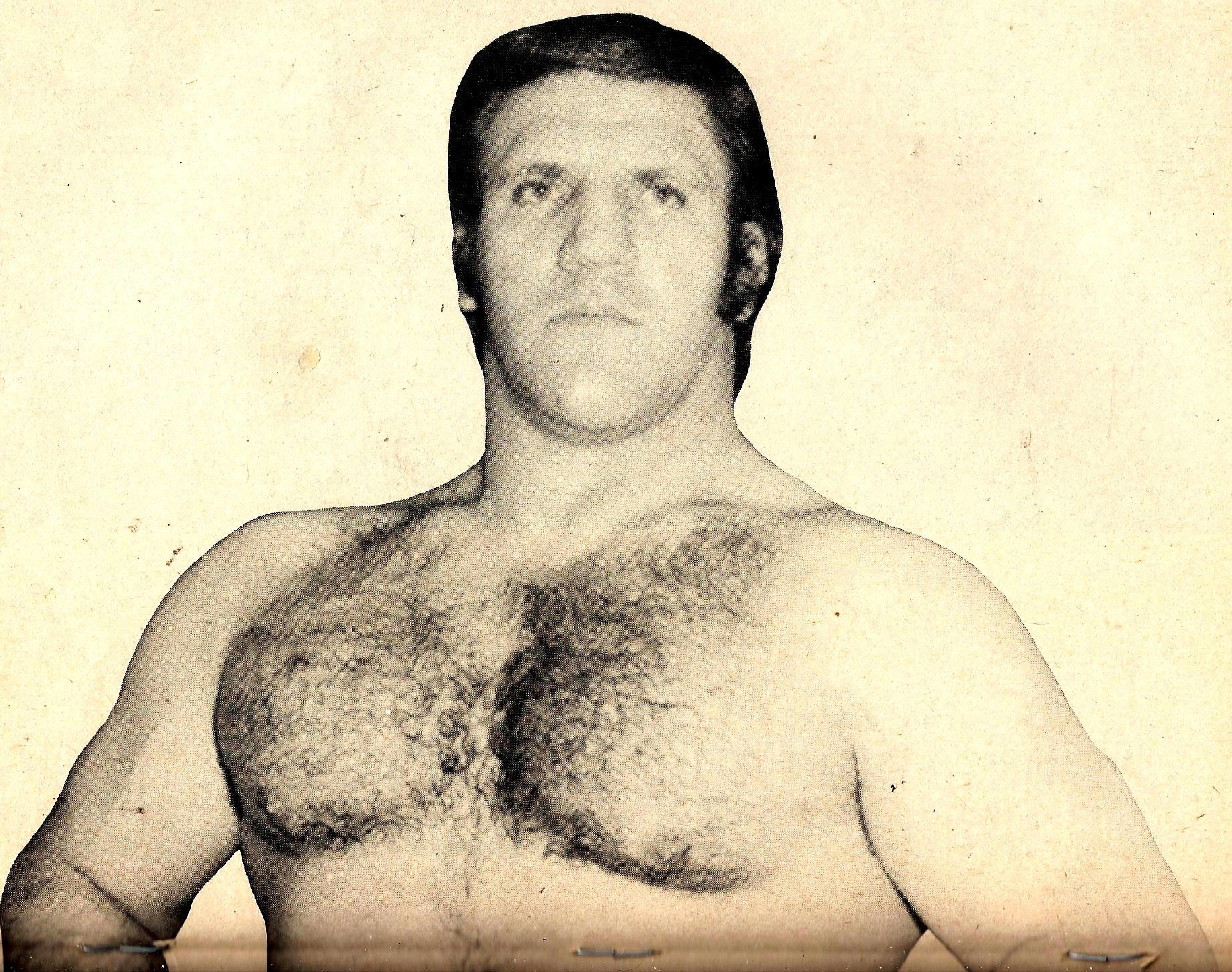


The referee asks Hunter if he's had enough as Mr. Wrestling turns on the pressure with an armlock.



Kurt Von Brauner is about to feel the blow of a high powered elbow smash executed by Mr. Wrestling.

POPULAR PIN-UP Bruno Sammartino



World's Champion

WALDO VON ERICH

(Continued from page 21)

and twenty minutes to a draw. There were other title matches but no title change. Then in 1969 Waldo returned and Sammartino was still the champion. Again Waldo tried to take the belt away. Sure he had token victories like winning on countouts or disqualifications but they don't win the belt. Waldo has returned a third time and this time he plans to succeed.

Waldo claims, "I have been cheated out of the title too many times. The belt is rightfully mine. No wrestler has beaten Sammartino more times than I have. I know I'm better than Sammartino. His manager Arnold Skoaland fears me. Sammartino knows I can beat him and he fears me as well."

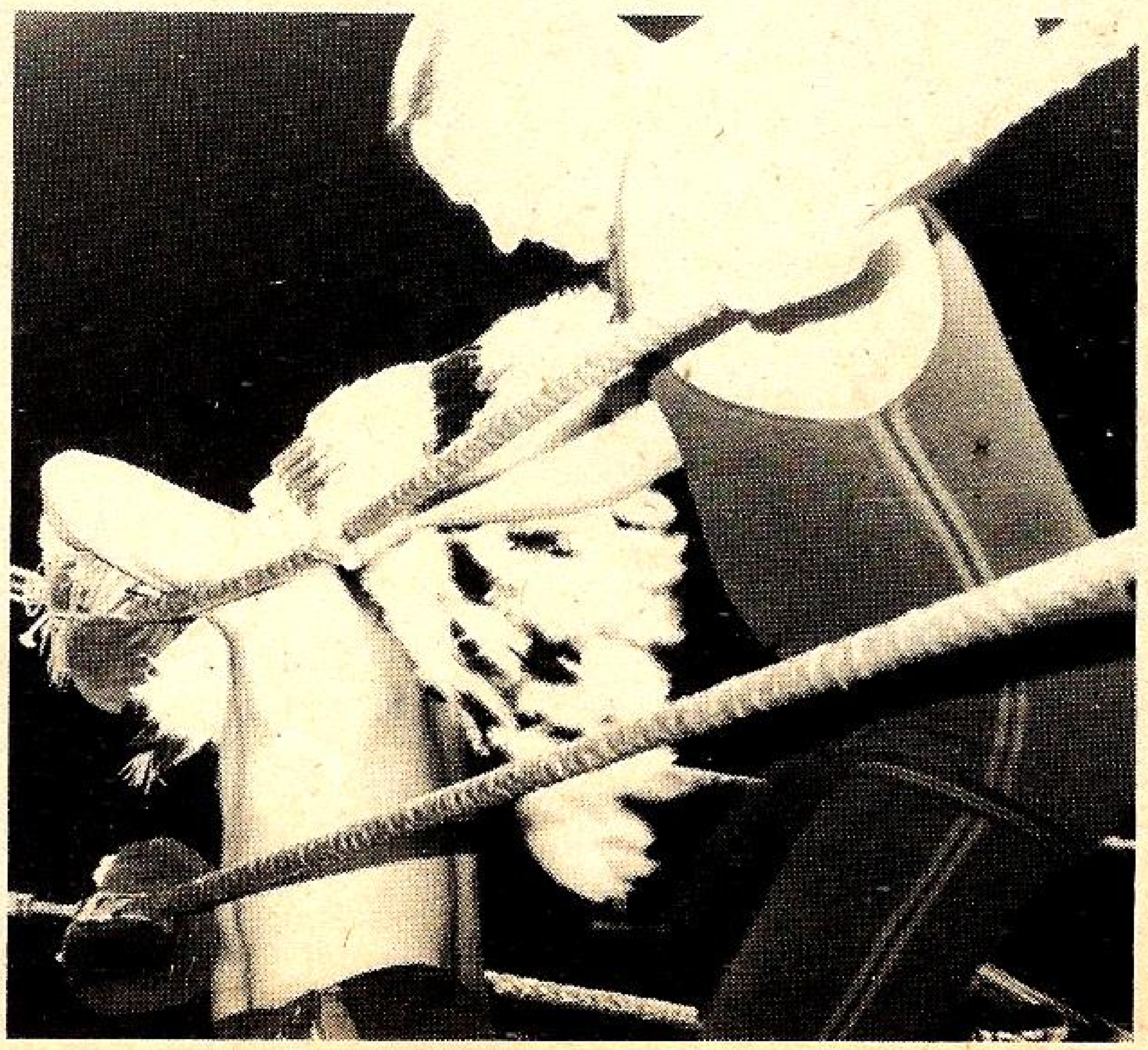
Why is Waldo Von Erich so cruel in his matches? Fred Blassie says, "What is wrestling anyway? A Sunday school picnic? Hell no. In that ring we separate the men from the boys. If the boys can't take it, then get out pronto. Cruel you say. Well call it that if you want. Let Waldo be cruel. Cruel, brutal, whatever it takes to win. Did you see him destroy that big-nosed Indian Chief Strongbow at Madison Square Garden? That dumb Indian never even took off his Indian headress and Waldo beat him. That dumb Indian turned his back. That is dumb you bet. The first rule in wrestling is NEVER TURN YOUR BACK! That is my first cardinal rule for me. That Indian learned his lesson the hard way. He'll never forget that again."

Von Erich claims, "I have found winning must be had at all costs. Whatever it takes to bring victory for the Fatherland must be made. I don't care how I win. I'm happy when victory is mine by being mean and cruel and brutal. Being this mister nice guy gets you nothing but cheers. Who needs that? I don't need the cheers of the fans. They don't win my matches for me. I win them my way. That Strongbow was cheered by thousands of fans. Did he beat me? NO! Those cheers made him careless. I attacked first and won. Stupid Indian that he is.

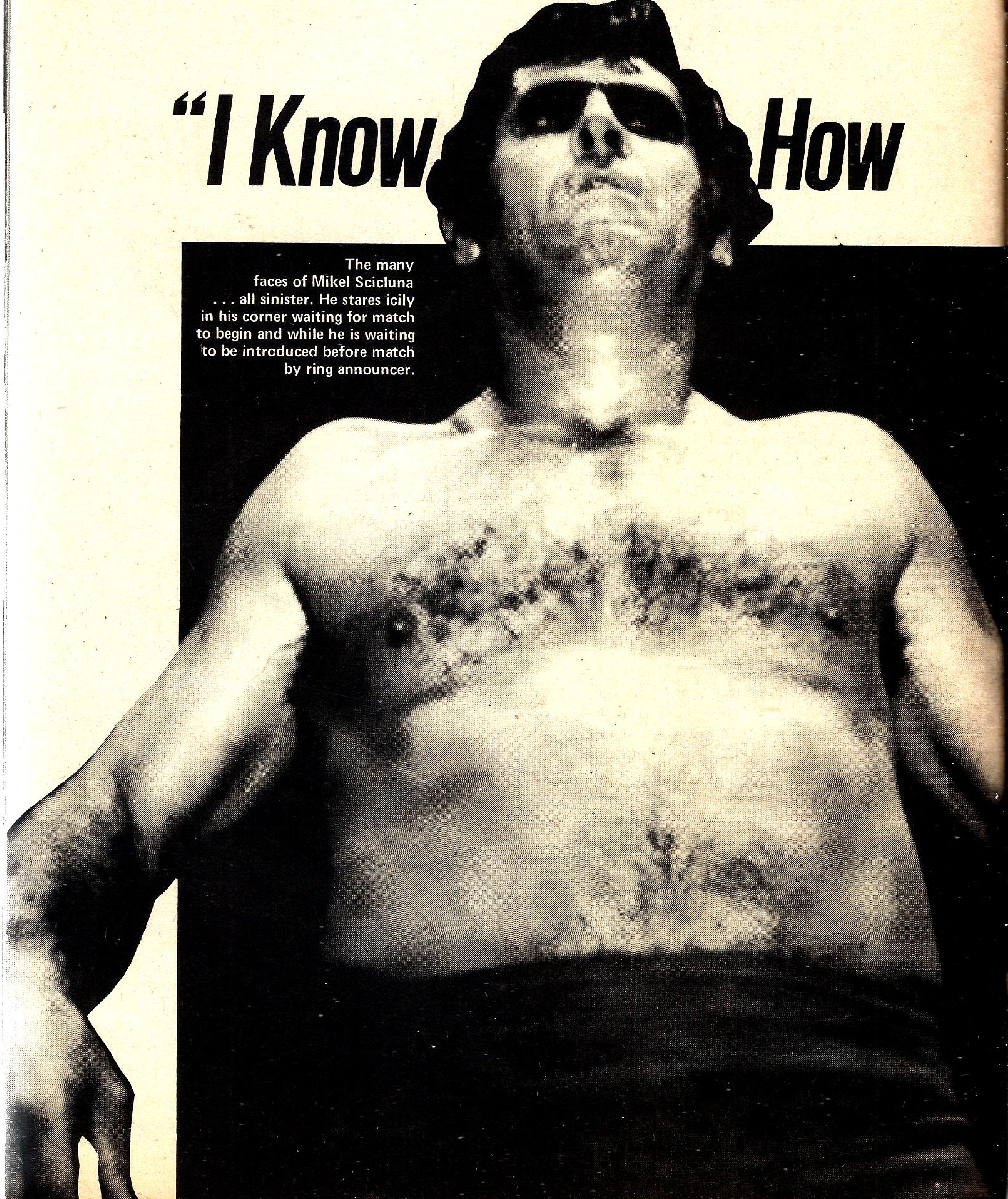
"Take this Sammartino. I beat him recently at Madison Square Garden. I made him bleed. I had him begging for mercy. Hah, mercy indeed. I don't know the meaning of the word. The referee saved Sammartino's title by stopping the slaughter. I should have been declared the winner and new champion. In fact I demanded the match continue. After all it was a title match.

"I am Sammartino's master. He shakes in his trunks when he knows he must face me. I will take your title away Sammartino. I have sworn an oath to do this. I will not rest until I accomplish this mission." ■

The sadistic look on Von Erich's face, left, indicates he is well pleased with his performance. He enjoys harming his opponents. It all began when he attacked Chief Jay Strongbow in his corner before the match officially began.

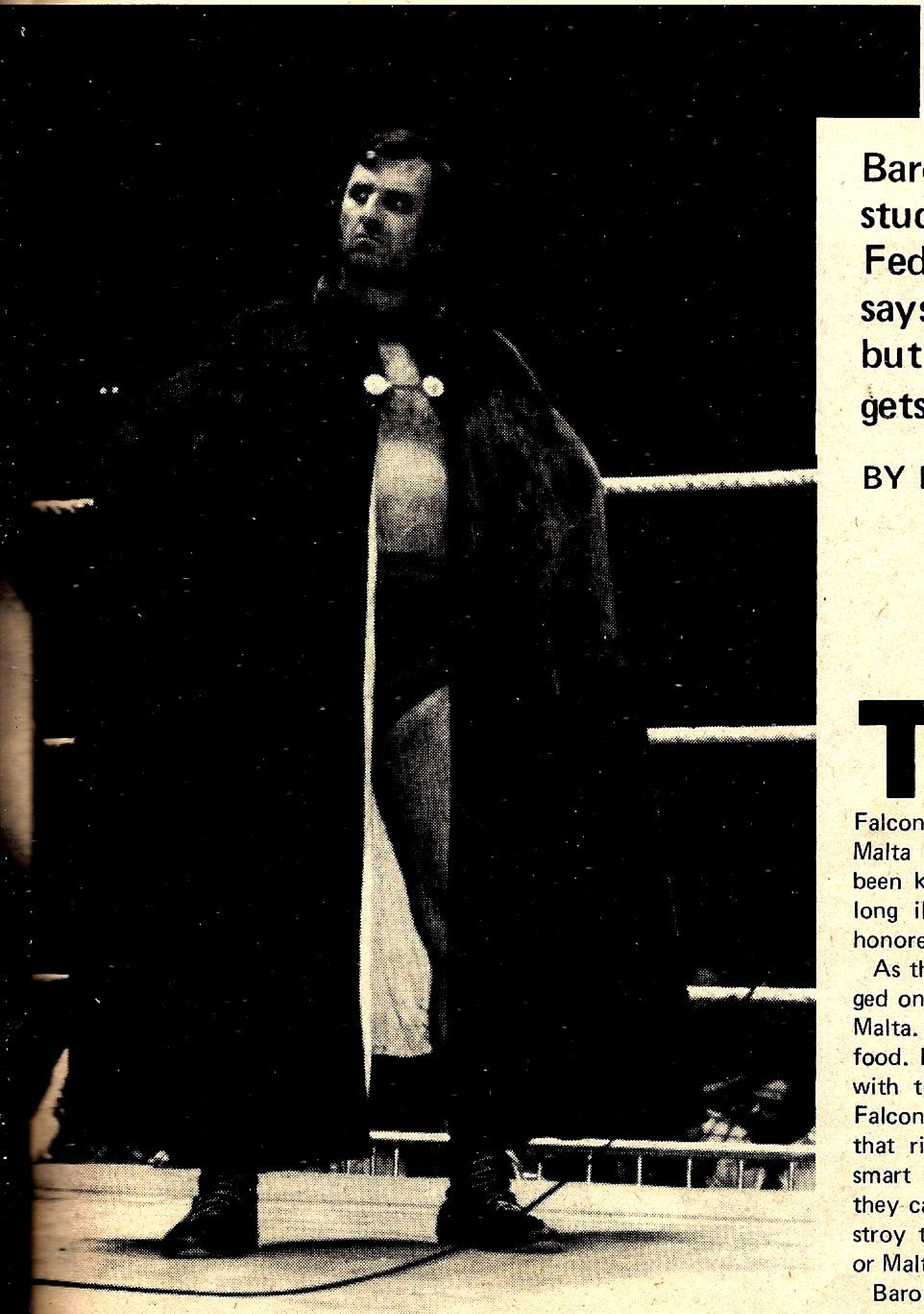


"I Know How



The many faces of Mikel Scicluna . . . all sinister. He stares icily in his corner waiting for match to begin and while he is waiting to be introduced before match by ring announcer.

To Beat Sammartino!" Claims Scicluna



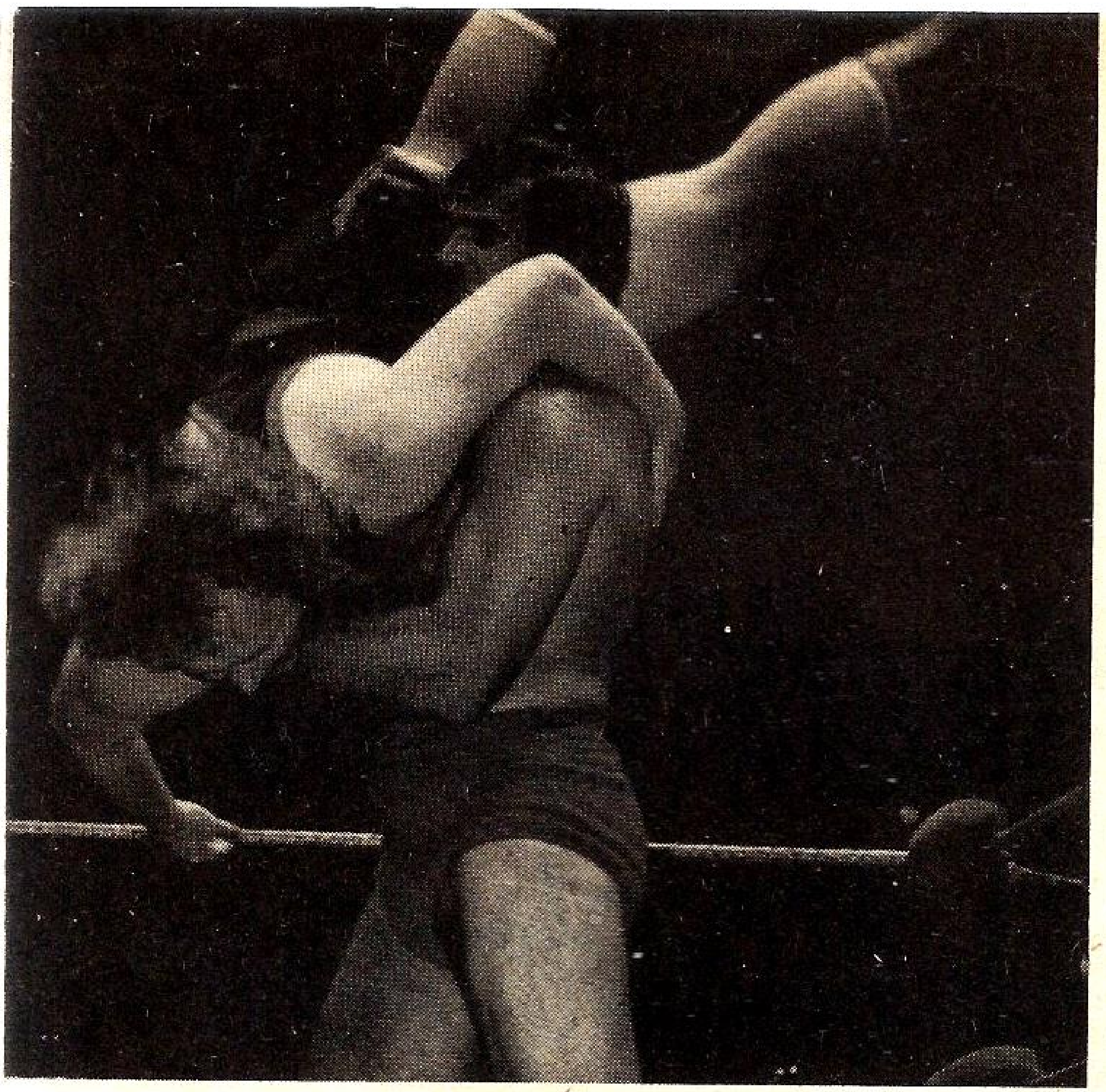
Baron Mikel Scicluna has been studying the World Wide Wrestling Federation champion's moves. He says he has seen some flaws. . . but won't reveal them until he gets Sammartino in the ring.

BY FRANK AMATO

The Maltese Falcon of wrestling is back flying around in the East. He is seeking only one thing — a title match with World Wide Wrestling Federation champion Bruno Sammartino. The Maltese Falcon is of course Baron Mikel Scicluna from the island of Malta located in the Mediterranean. The Baron has also been known as The Maltese Terror at various times in his long illustrious wrestling career. He is both proud and honored of these nicknames associated with him.

As the Baron puts it, "Many wrestlers get nicknames tagged onto themselves that they hate. But not me. I'm from Malta. The Falcon is a hawk that preys upon other birds for food. It swoops out of the sky and catches them in mid-air with their feet and kills it for food. Well, I'm like that Falcon. Only my prey are wrestlers. Wrestlers who are in that ring to try and defeat me. Only they can't. I'm so smart and cunning they can't. I'm so smart and cunning they can't get at me. When it is too late I reach out and destroy them. So, I have been known as The Maltese Falcon or Maltese Terror and I love it."

Baron Mikel Scicluna has returned to the WWWF for the express purpose of trying for another chance to win the coveted WWWF gold belt. Bruno Sammartino holds that belt and these two are no strangers. Not by a long sight.



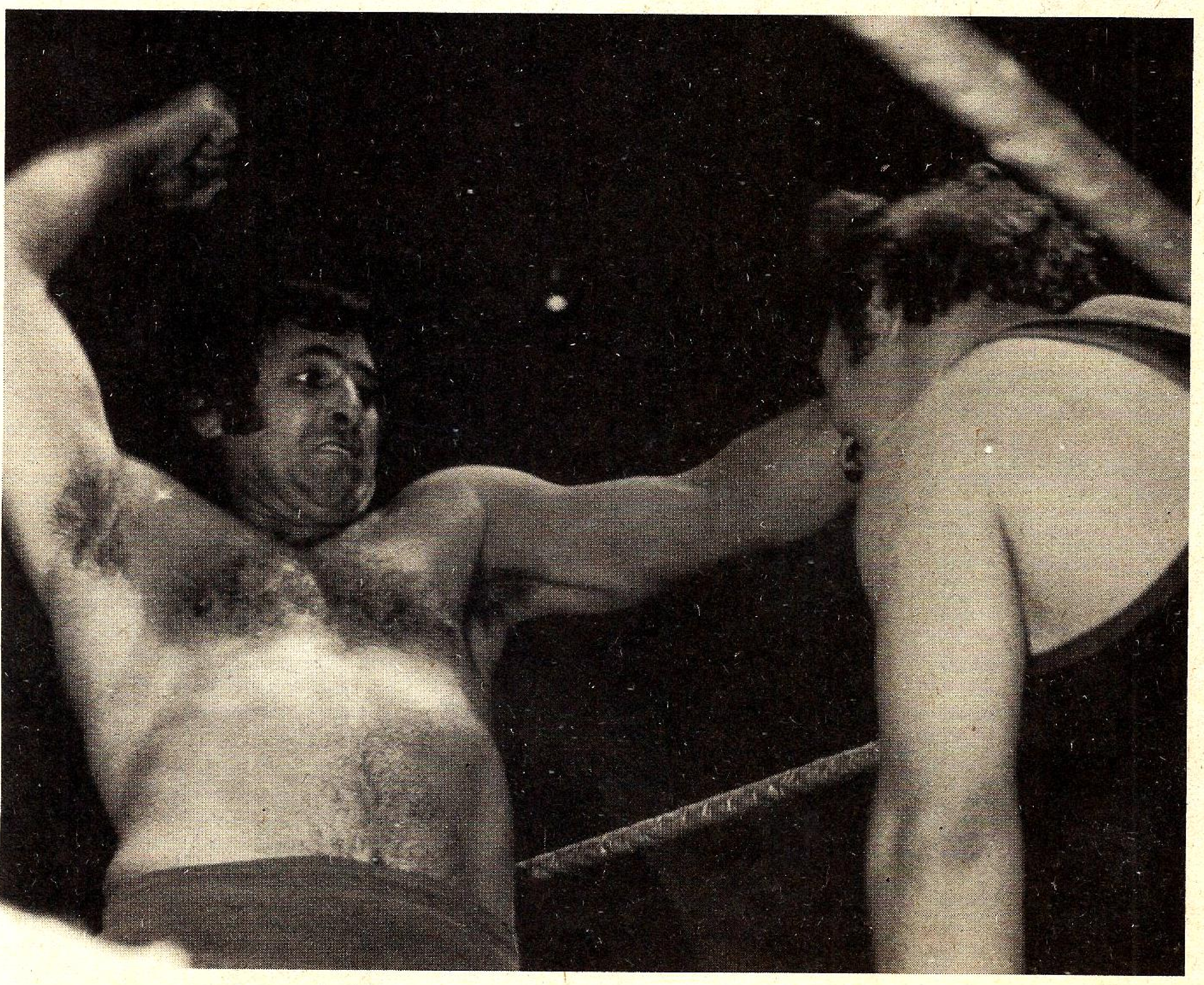
Scicluna's strength is evident as he prepares to send his opponent head first into the canvas.

They have had some memorable title matches through the years.

Sammartino has some vivid memories of those meetings. He states, "Yes, I remember Baron Mikel Scicluna only to well. I believe it was 1966 when he first arrived in this area. I didn't know to much about him then. My manager, Arnold Skoaland, had a complete report on him. The report said that Scicluna was smart, devious and pure murder when the chips were down. One mistake and he can beat you. An excellent defensive wrestler.

"Well, when I first defended my title against him, I found the report to be true but not totally complete. It forgot to include that Scicluna loved using hidden weapons. That first match I nearly had my throat ruptured by Scicluna ramming this taped object into my throat. That first match eneded in a draw. For two days afterwards I could hardly swallow. Ever since then our matches have been just short of wars. He always finds a way of sneaking in those hidden weapons. The referee always searches him but the weapon always finds its way into that ring. He is uncanny but very dangerous and vicious."

Baron Mikel Scicluna always will dispel this attack on his wrestling ability. He says, "That Bruno Sammartino cries

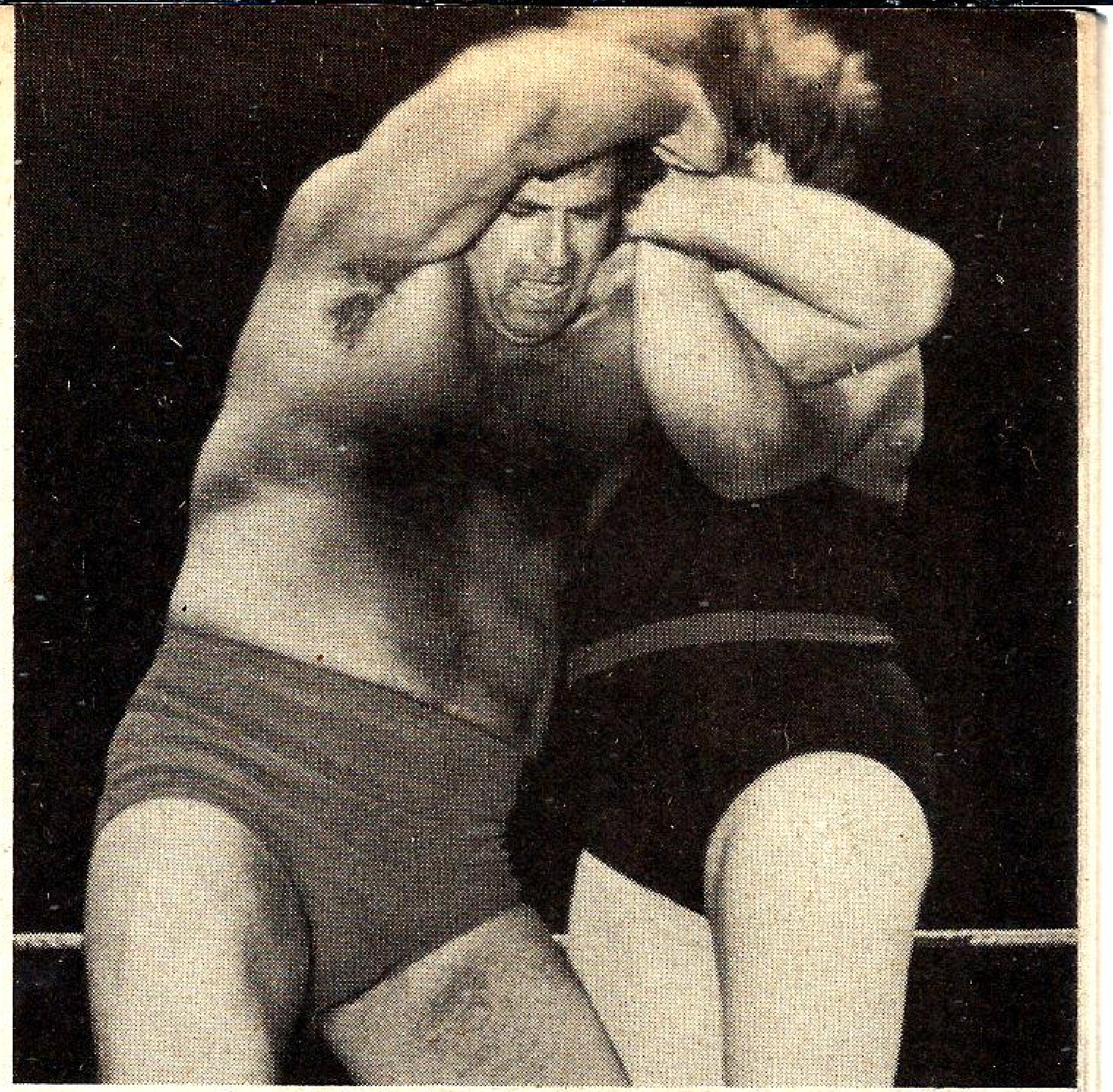


Pounding away at his foe, Scicluna is determined to win the WWWF title from Bruno Sammartino and has returned to the east coast strictly for that purpose.

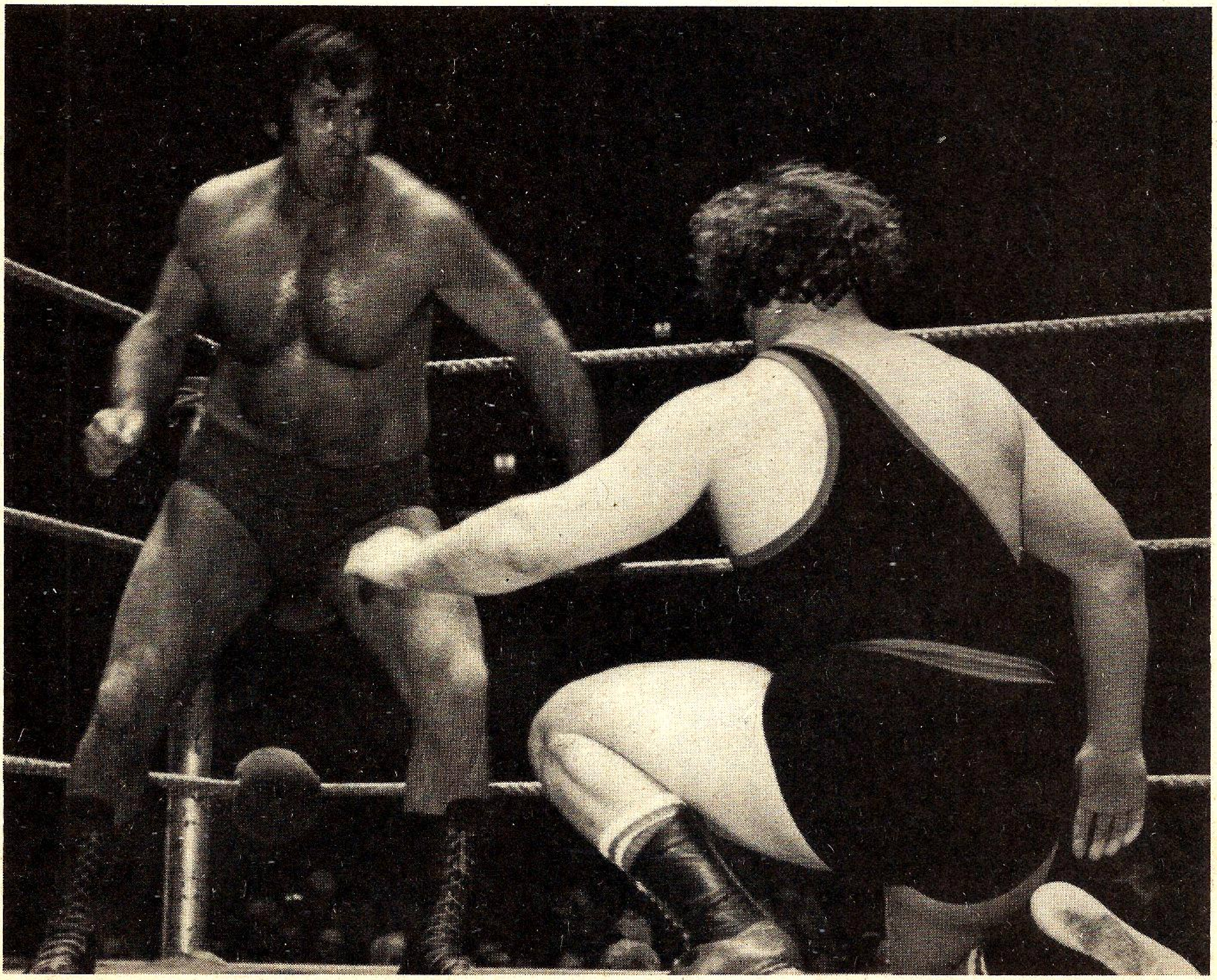
wolf. He is supposed to be a great champion, am I correct? So why does he claim these falsehoods about me. I don't and never had to win any match with the use of any kind of weapon. I am a clean wrestler at all times. If a weapon does find its way into the ring my worthless opponents bring them in. When the going gets rough and they are losing against me they say I brought the weapon in the ring. How ridiculous. Sammartino should know better than that. He managed to keep his precious title only because the referee and officials protect Bruno because they like to see him remain the champion."

What about Baron Mikel Scicluna known for his villainous ways? Says Scicluna, "What do you mean villianous ways? I'm not a villain. Never have been. Sure I've been jeered and booed. That is only because I may wrestle the local hero in an area. I will admit I'm sometimes rough in my matches but only because my opponents set the trend of my matches. If they want to resort to underhanded methods, then I will do the same. Like them bringing in those hidden weapons. I can get rough when the need arises. I want to win. Winning means everything and I'm not a loser by any count."

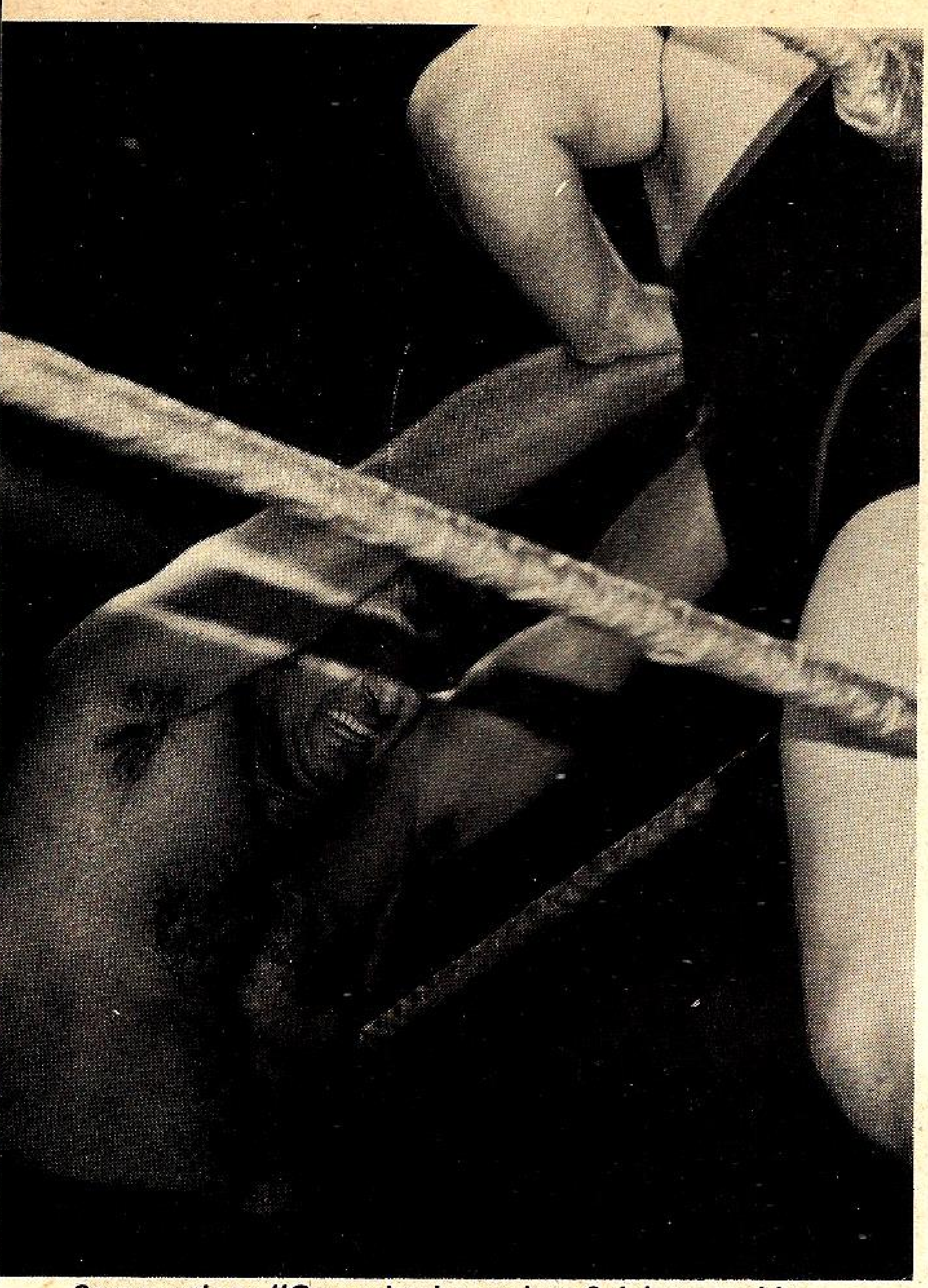
Baron Mikel Scicluna has been wrestling professionally



In a test of strength, Scicluna locks arms with his adversary as he moves in position to gain an advantage for applying leverage.



Venting his anger, Scicluna moves in to attack his dazed opponent who is struggling to get up off the mat.



Sammartino: "One mistake against Scicluna and he can beat you. He's an excellent defensive wrestler."

for twenty years. He is 6 feet 4 inches and 270 pounds. Originally from the island of Malta, the Baron, from a prominent family of royalty, always loved sports. His real love was wrestling. He excelled in amateur wrestling in his teen years. When he reached complete manhood he decided to branch out in the pro ranks.

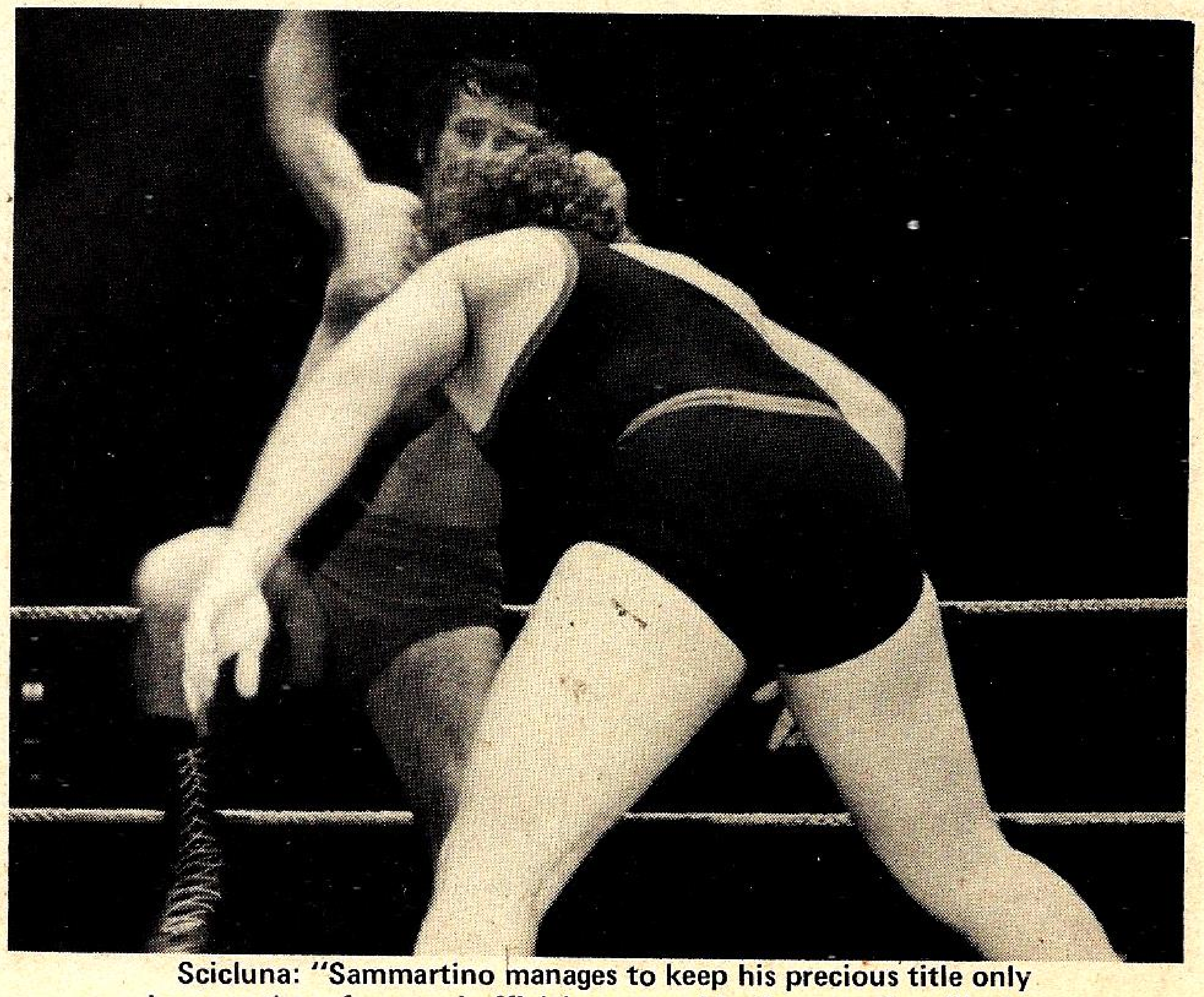
He first started in Europe where he won many regional titles. He went undefeated his first few years. Finally he packed up and headed for Canada where once again he gained new heights. Only wrestling was different in Canada. The Baron found that Greco-Roman wrestling which he was used to was hardly used at all. Now it was the catch-as-catch-can style.

Says Scicluna, "When I first arrived in Canada I had certain ideals about winning my matches. I soon found that wrestlers in Canada wanted rougher matches. They would kick, punch, choke or whatever to win. I wasn't used to this. I lost some matches at first until I quickly wised up. Soon these same wrestlers were getting a taste of their own medicine."

From Canada Scicluna traveled from one area to another. His reputation quickly grew. In his career Baron Scicluna has traveled nearly all over the world, except in the Iron Curtain countries. To say he is world famous in wrestling is putting it mildly.

Whether in single matches or tag team Scicluna is very adept. In tag team competition he has co-held many tag titles. In the WWWF area he teamed with Smasher Sloan to win the U.S. Tag Team Championship in 1967 from Johnny Valentine and Tony Pugliese. In 1972 with King Curtis Iaukea they captured the WWWF World Tag Team Championship; in Australia the Australian Tag Team Championship; in Malta the Tag Team Championship.

The Baron has some favorite tag partners. Such as King Curtis Iaukea, Goerge Steele, Mark Lewin, Prof. Tanaka,



Scicluna: "Sammartino manages to keep his precious title only because the referee and officials protect him because they like to see him remain as champion.

Hans Mortier and Killer Kowalski. He rates them very high. He calls them, "his kind of people."

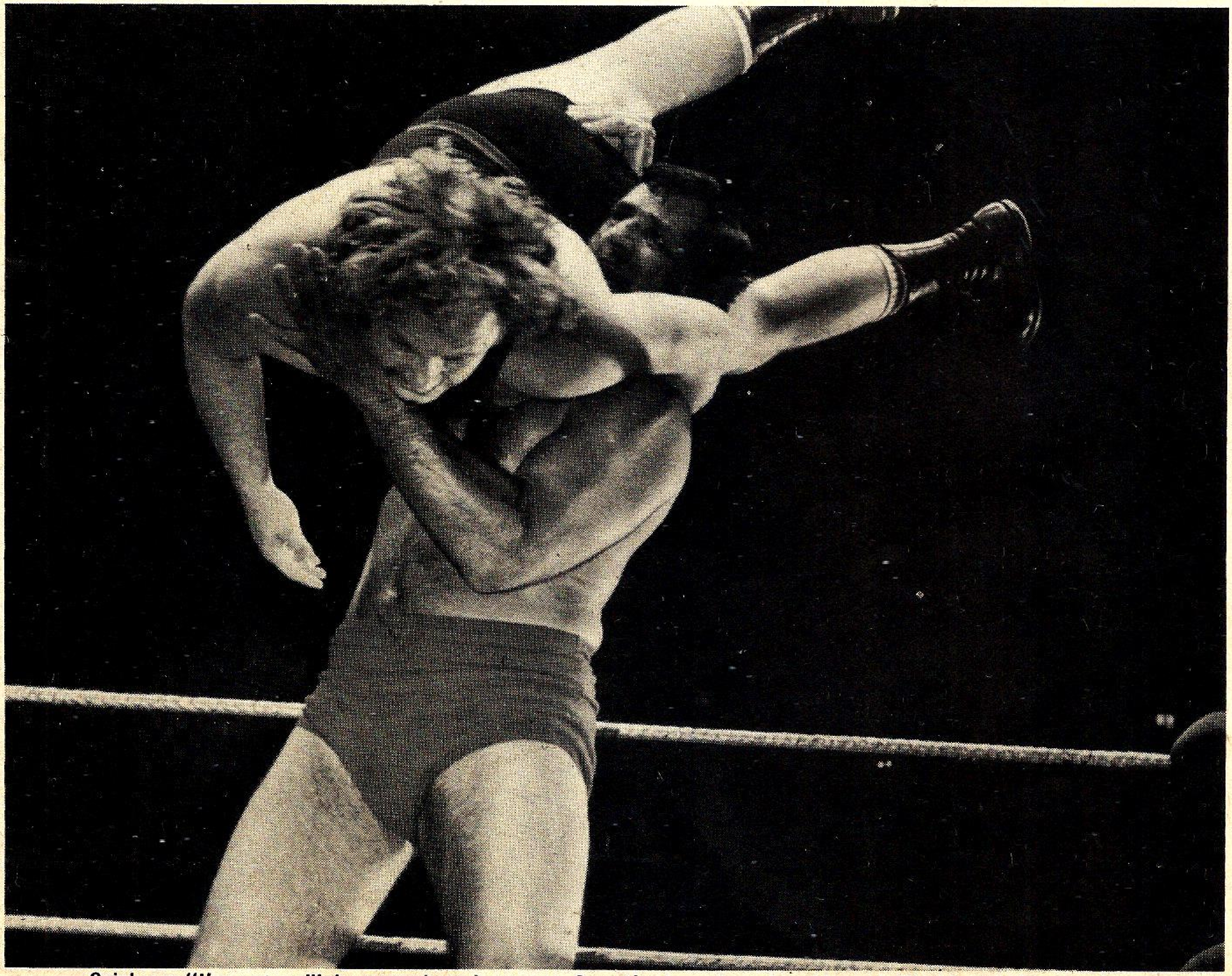
In singles competition Scicluna does rate some wrestlers as stiff opponents. Among them are: Bruno Sammartino, Johnny Valentine, Red Bastien, Gorilla Monsoon, Chief Jay Strongbow, Edouard Carpentier, Mario Milano and Dominic DeNucci.

In 1972 when Scicluna was teamed with King Curtis Iaukea he was managed by Lou Albano. He says of Albano, "In all my pro wrestling career I had never taken on a manager. That is until I met Lou Albano. Here is a manager who really looks after his wrestlers. He gets them the best competition and top money. He is smart and cunning. What he promises he delivers. That is what I like. I'm back now and perhaps Mr. Albano and myself can get together again. We had a pleasant and profitable association."

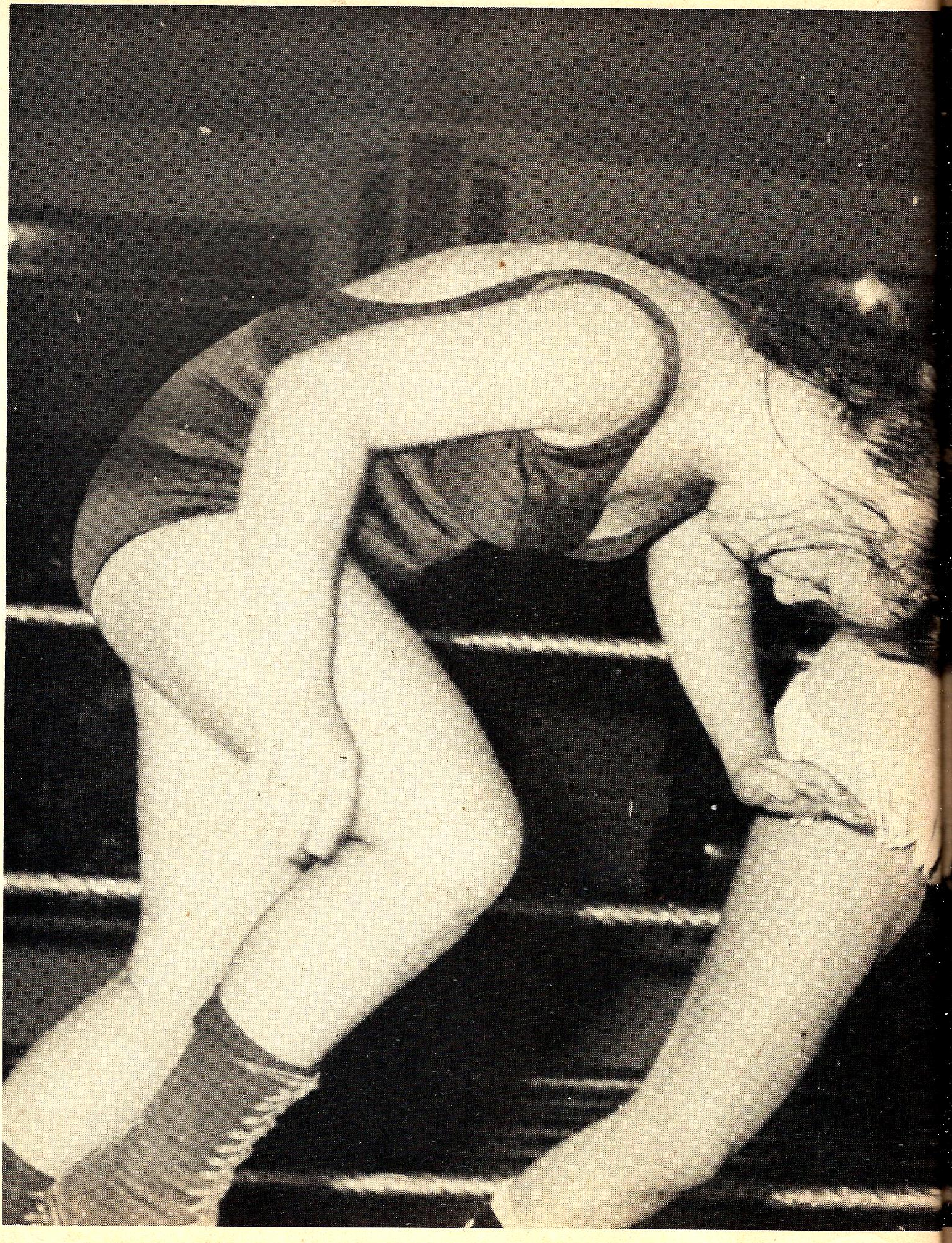
Scicluna was unsuccessful in his attempts at taking the WWWF title from Bruno Sammartino back in the late sixties. When Pedro Morales was the WWWF title holder Scicluna also tried unsuccessfully to win the title. He says, "How can you beat Pedro Morales? He is protected by the very same people who protect Sammartino. I should have been the champion by now but I was cheated in my attempts. Against Morales and Sammartino I was disqualified and given fast counts. How can you win?"

So now Baron Scicluna is back. Back to bring further honor and prestige to his homeland of Malta. He wants the WWWF title and intends to get it. He has plans just waiting to be put into action.

He says, "I have watched films of Sammartino in action from past matches of several years ago. I'm watching matches of Sammartino in matches of the present. I see some flaws. I'm working on them. When we meet this time I will take the belt and go home to Malta to show my devoted fans. They deserve it. I deserve it. The world deserves it. I will do it. I promise."



Scicluna: "I'm not a villain, never have been one. Sure I've been jeered and booed. That is only because I may wrestle the local hero in an area."

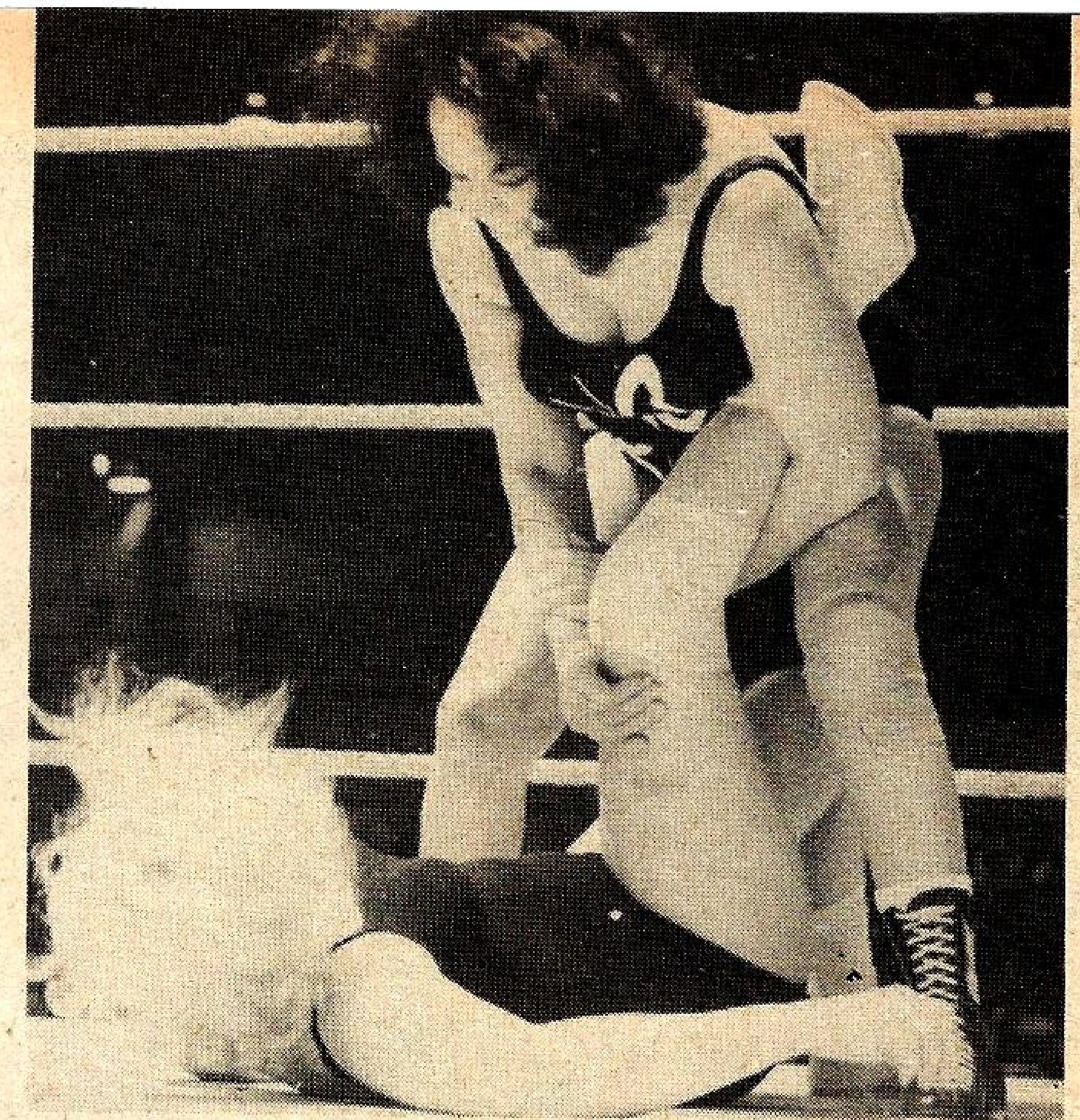


"There's Nobody Who Can Beat Me!"

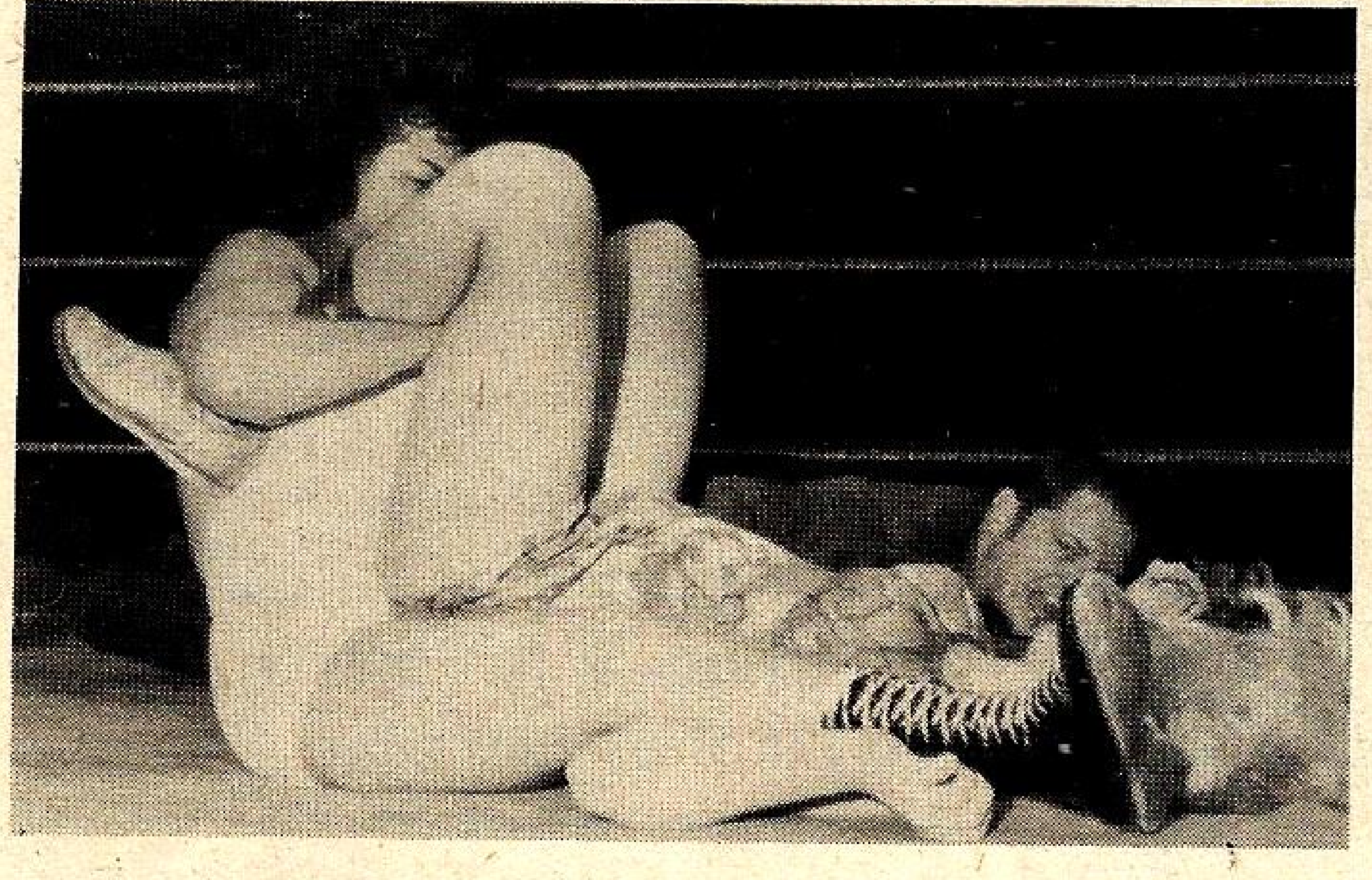
BY FABULOUS MOOLAH

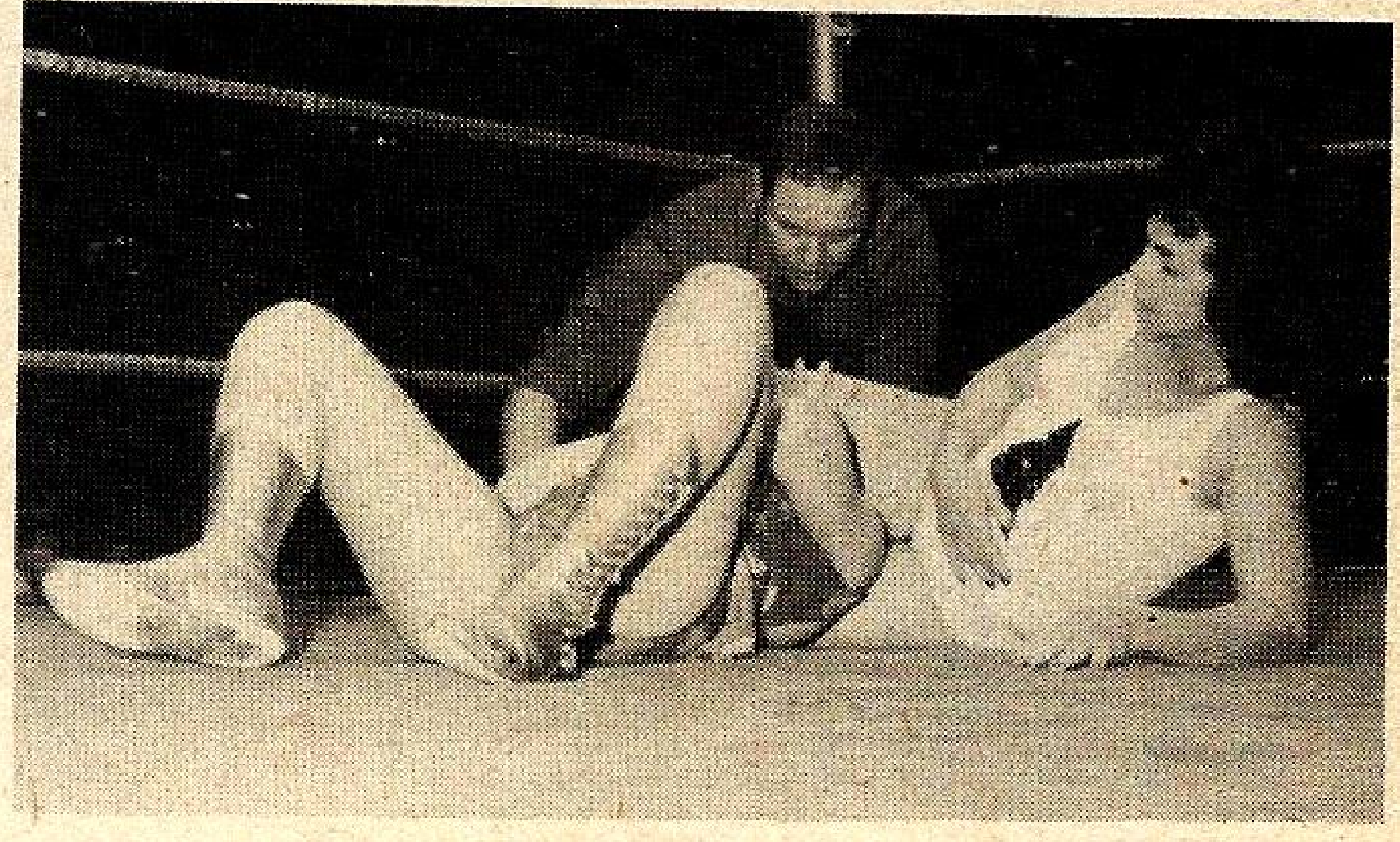
I've held the world's championship for 21 years . . .longer than anyone in the history of female wrestling. If anybody thinks they can take the title away from me, they have another guess coming!

A little hair pulling helps. At least as far as Moolah is concerned. Feeling the effects is Sheila Sheppard.



Despite her rough and tumble ways during a match, Moolah is an expert at executing holds. Right, she clamps a leglock on her opponent, which is enough to cause pain. Below, she deftly pins Joyce Grable with a reverse pin. Lower right, she applies a leglock on Grable.





The next time anybody gives me anything will be the first. I'm not a taker, I'm a giver. Nobody ever gave me anything so I don't look for it. That's the way it's been ever since I was a child. I had to scratch and claw for everything. I did it then and I had to do it all throughout my wrestling career. Everything I have gotten, the glory and the money, I've earned myself. The one thing that I have taken along the way to becoming the worl'd champion is a lot of hard knocks. I've got the scars to prove it. That's the price I have paid. I've held the title longer than anyone in the history of female wrestling and there isn't a woman alive who can take the title away from me. I laugh everytime I hear someone say they are going to beat me for the belt. The only way I'll give up the belt is when I retire. And that ain't about to happen.

Every year there are more challengers for my crown. That's because there are more female wrestlers today then when I first broke in. I'll warn everyone, however, They better know what they're in for if they challenge me. I'm the champion simply because I am the best around. Have been for the past 21 years, too.

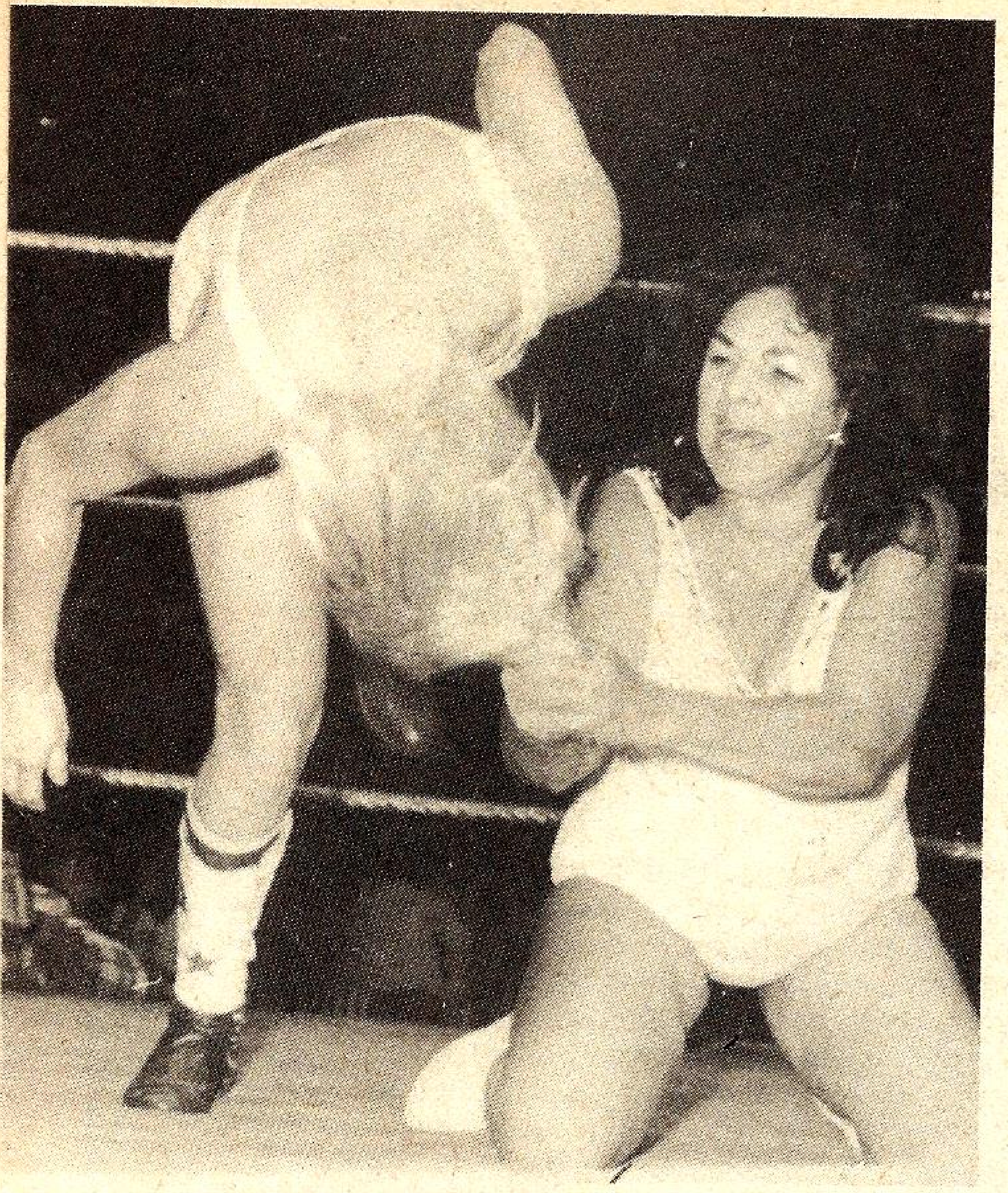
Winning the title had been my goal ever since I was a youngster growing up in South Carolina. I had to lift myself up by my bootstraps. That alone gave me the fiber to become the world's champion. And it will always remain part of me.

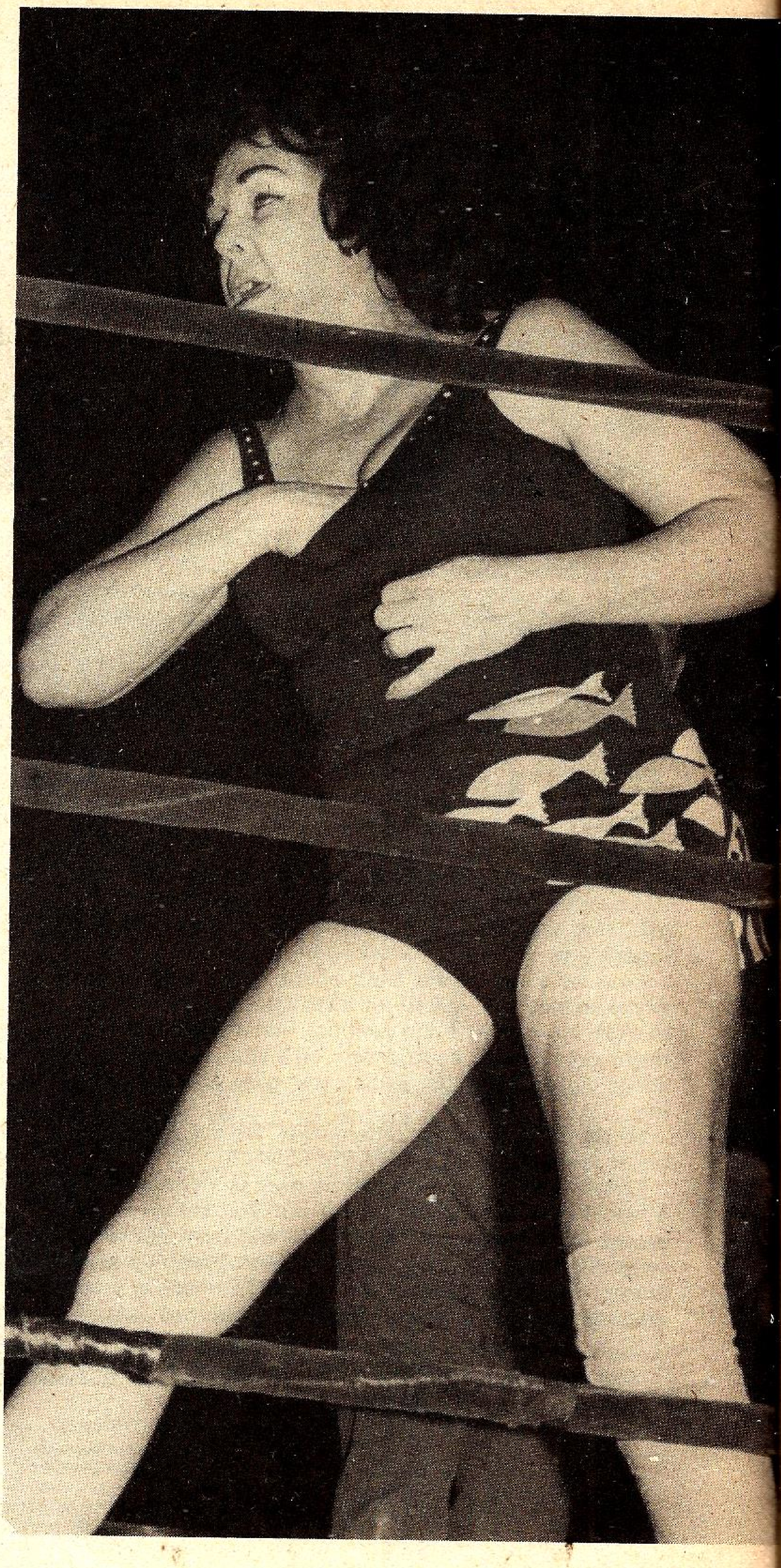
I was the only girl among 12 brothers of a poor family. My father was a full blooded Cherokee Indian and my mother was Irish. As fate would have it, I was close to my father. My mother died when I was only eight. Still, we managed. My father also had to take the place of my mother and I helped him with the chores. Watching after 12 boys isn't what you would call easy.

Under such circumstances I grew up quickly, almost overnight you might say. I faced responsibilities earlier than most children my age. Why, I started school at the age of four. I was a bright child and I kept following my brothers to school. The principle finally decided that it was best that I remained in school only because they got tired of getting someone to take me back home. I was 14 when I graduated from high school.

My Indian heritage gave me a background for wrestling. I had always wanted to be a wrestler when I was a youngster. I used to go with my father to the wrestling matches about once a month on the average. I was a good athlete, and being around so many of my brothers, I was a natural tomboy. Whenever anyone asked me what I was going to be when I grew up I always said a wrestler.

Believe it or not, I launched my wrestling career when I was only 15. That's the truth. One of my older brothers was a boxer and he had an offer to fight in South Africa. I bugged him to take me with him and he did. It was the greatest thing that happened to me. It may sound strange for one so young but if I didn't get to South Africa I may





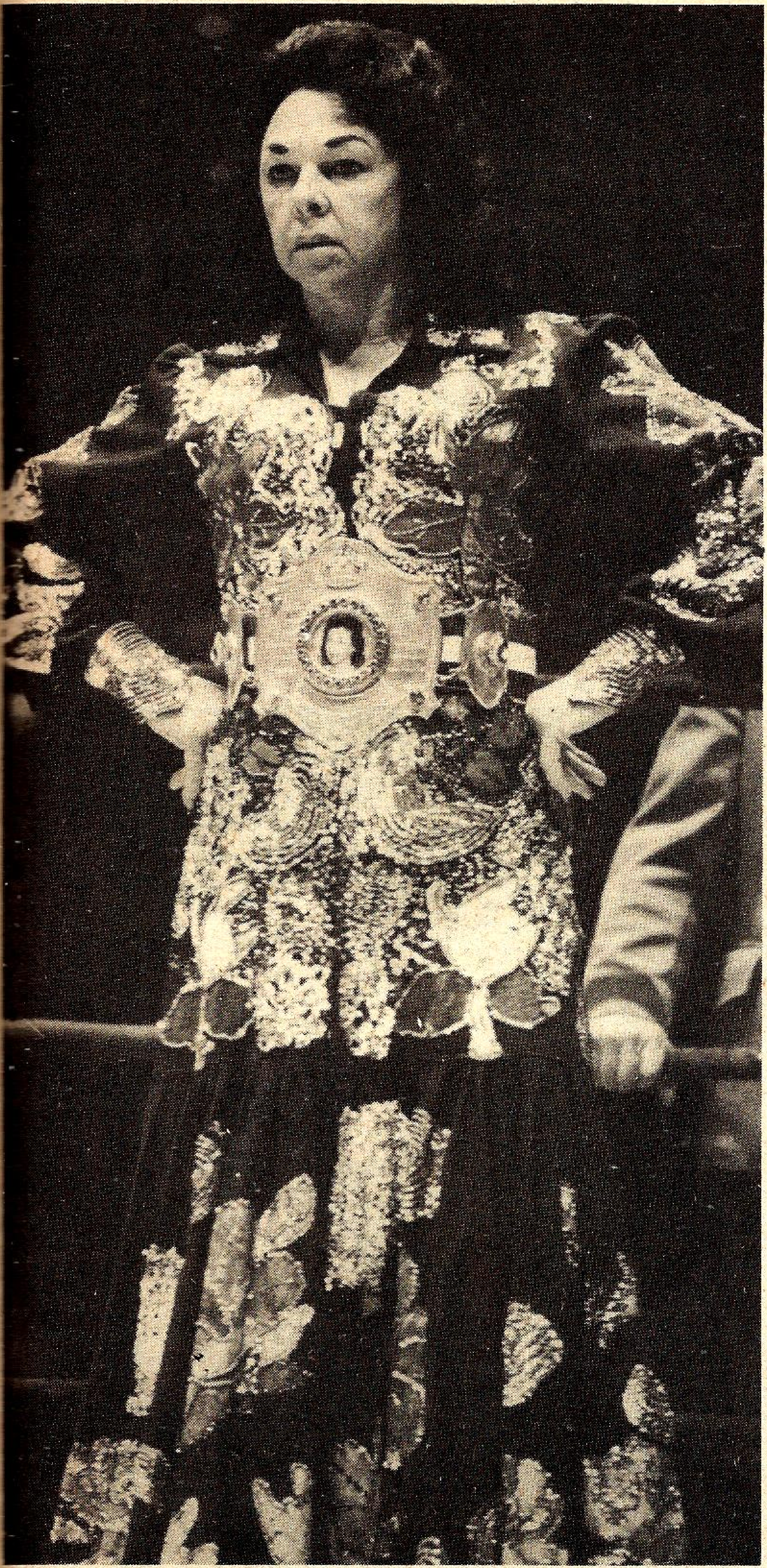
Moolah contends that she will do anything to win . . .and often does. Above, she tosses Susan Green to the mat by her hair, which isn't very lady-like. At right, Moolah digs into her trunks for a foreign object. At far right, looking every bit like a lady, Moolah displays her fancy wardrobe.

never have started wrestling professionally at such an early age.

Women wrestling was quite popular there. I kept hounding the promoter to let me wrestle. I was at his office every day, pleading for a chance. He couldn't believe I was only 15. That's what concerned him most, my age. He kept putting me off, but finally one day he gave in.

He finally asked my why I wanted to wrestle. I told him strictly for the money. He liked that. Good, then I'll call you Moolah, he remarked. I don't care what you call me I replied just as long as I can earn some big money. He was fascinated by my long black hair which he claimed reminded him of a slave girl and he decided to call me Slave Girl Moolah. That's how it began.

For a year I wrestled in South Africa. I gained valuable experience but I wanted to return to the United States. For



one thing I was a bit homesick. Then, too, I was presented with much more opportunity in the U.S. The promoter understood and even helped arrange with other promotoers to get me matches. So, I left South Africa, still very young but with a year's experience behind me.

However, before I toured the U.S. circuit, I first went home to South Carolina to begin a new conditioning program. Actually, I went into training in an effort to put on more weight. The female wrestlers in America were much bigger than those in South Africa and I realized I would have difficulty competing against them if I was 20-30 pounds lighter. After about six months, I was ready for the U.S. rings.

I made my U.S. debut in Boston in 1954. I was only 17 at the time, but nobody knew it. The other girls around were much older. I knew none of my opponents would give me a break and I was determined to win any way I could. I won that night and kept on winning for the next two years. My rough style didn't endear me to the fans or my opponents for that matter. But I had a goal to become the world's champion burning inside of me and all I cared about was winning.

Nobody could deny me that. That's why I earned the chance with 13 other females to take part in a one night tournament in Baltimore in 1956 to determine a new champion. I was ready. It was something I had wanted ever since I was a child. I advanced into the finals and met June Byers. I defeated her in two straight falls and won the world's championship and have held the title ever since.

You might say I'm an unpopular, popular champion. The fans hate me but they'll pay to see me in action. That's all I care about. The more they pay, the more I make. I'm not running in a popularity contest. I'm not concerned about my image like some others. All I'm concerned with is successfully defending my title.

I don't care what the fans think, the way I wrestle or how I win, just as long as my hand is raised after a match. I'll take anything I can get out there. It's no ballet in the ring. It's me against an enemy. She wants to win as much as I do, otherwise she doesn't belong in the ring. Only, I'm not going to let my opponent win. I've got too much desire and pride to let that happen.

I'm cast as a villain. But you know what? I love it. Like I said, I don't care how I win. The only thing that concerns me is winning. When this isn't so important to me any longer, then I'll call it a career. I've been the champion all these years only because I want to win more than any of my opponents. It all comes down to pride and money and I have both.

It hasn't been easy, traveling from town to town and virtually living out of a suitcase all these years. And, I've taken a lot of bumps and bruises along the way. One night in Houston 11 years ago I got smashed over the head with a chair. It landed on my face and the pain shot through my body. I knew I was hurt but I didn't know how badly. The referee had given me a towel and I pressed it to my face as I was escorted out of the ring by the police. By the time I reached the dressing room, the towel was crimson.

They didn't hesitate in rushing me to the hospital. The doctor told me that I would need several stitches to close the gash. I thought about it on the way to the hospital and decided that I wouldn't allow them to stitch me up. I couldn't bear the thought of living with a scar the rest of my life. So, I insisted on butterfly clamps and believe me the pain was worth it.

I got this scar above my lip 16 years ago in Salem, Mass. My opponent flew off the ropes and kicked me in the mouth with her boots, knocking me unconscious in the middle of the ring. I didn't come to until I was in the dressing room. The first thing I did was to feel my mouth. I couldn't feel anything. It was numb. All I could feel was that my teeth came through my upper lip. Somehow, I freed my teeth. I couldn't eat any solid food for two weeks.

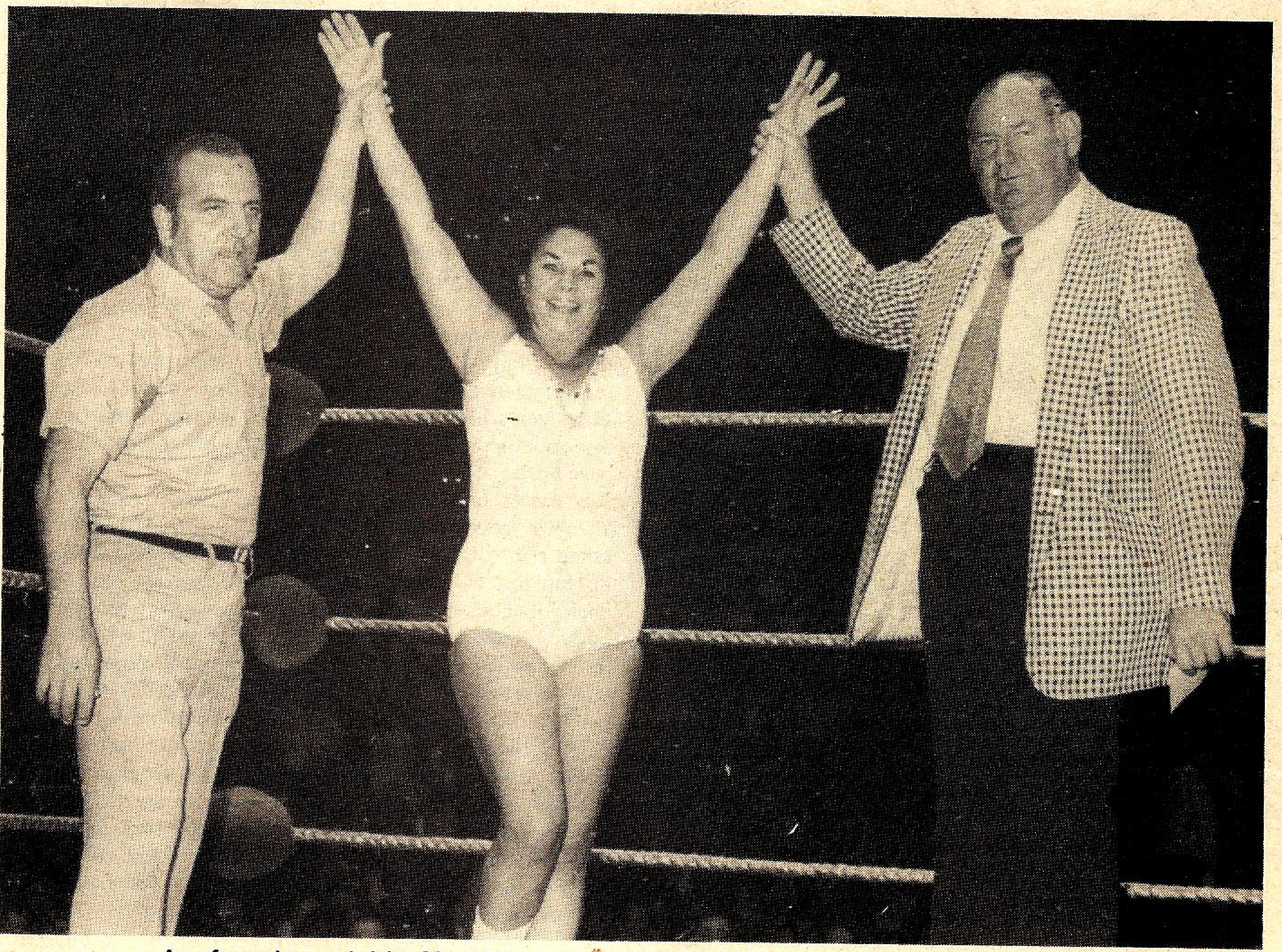
I've had a lot of hurts down through the years. It hasn't been a bed of roses. I've fought and scratched all along the way for what I've got. I never took the time to add up all the injuries. . .broken collarbone; bruised knees; cracked ribs; sprained ankles; strained back and whatever else you care to mention. That's the price I've paid to being the best in the business.

Still, I've got no complaints. It's all part of the business. The rewards I have achieved more than make up for the pain. I've worn this championship belt for the past 21 years, longer than any other in the history of wrestling. The way I feel, I can go on wearing it for another 10. I don't see anybody around who is capable of beating me and I've beaten everyone around.

I get a big laugh out of the women's liberation movement. That's some joke. Why, I've been free to do what I want ever since I was a youngster simply because I knew what I wanted and went after it. These women don't know what they want. They just rally around some silly banner just to be heard and get attention. Individually, they gain nothing. Why? Because they haven't benefitted from the experience personally. They are all functioning as a group, demanding to be heard. Individually, they are still empty.

I'm all woman and all female. I'll stay that way, too. What's more, I've made it all on my own, just like any female or male for that matter can do if they want to bad enough. If you want something bad enough in life all you have to do is reach out for it and go after it and don't stop until you have attained it.

When I was small I wanted to become the world's champion. I succeeded. Anyone who thinks they can take away my title has another guess coming. What's more, they better think twice about trying it. I've worked a long time to get the belt. I'm not about to let it slip through my fingers. I'll retire as the world's champion and let that be a warning to everybody. ■



An often witnessed sight, Moolah's arms are raised victoriously by referee and ring announcer. Despite being the world's champion for 21 years, she has no desire to retire.

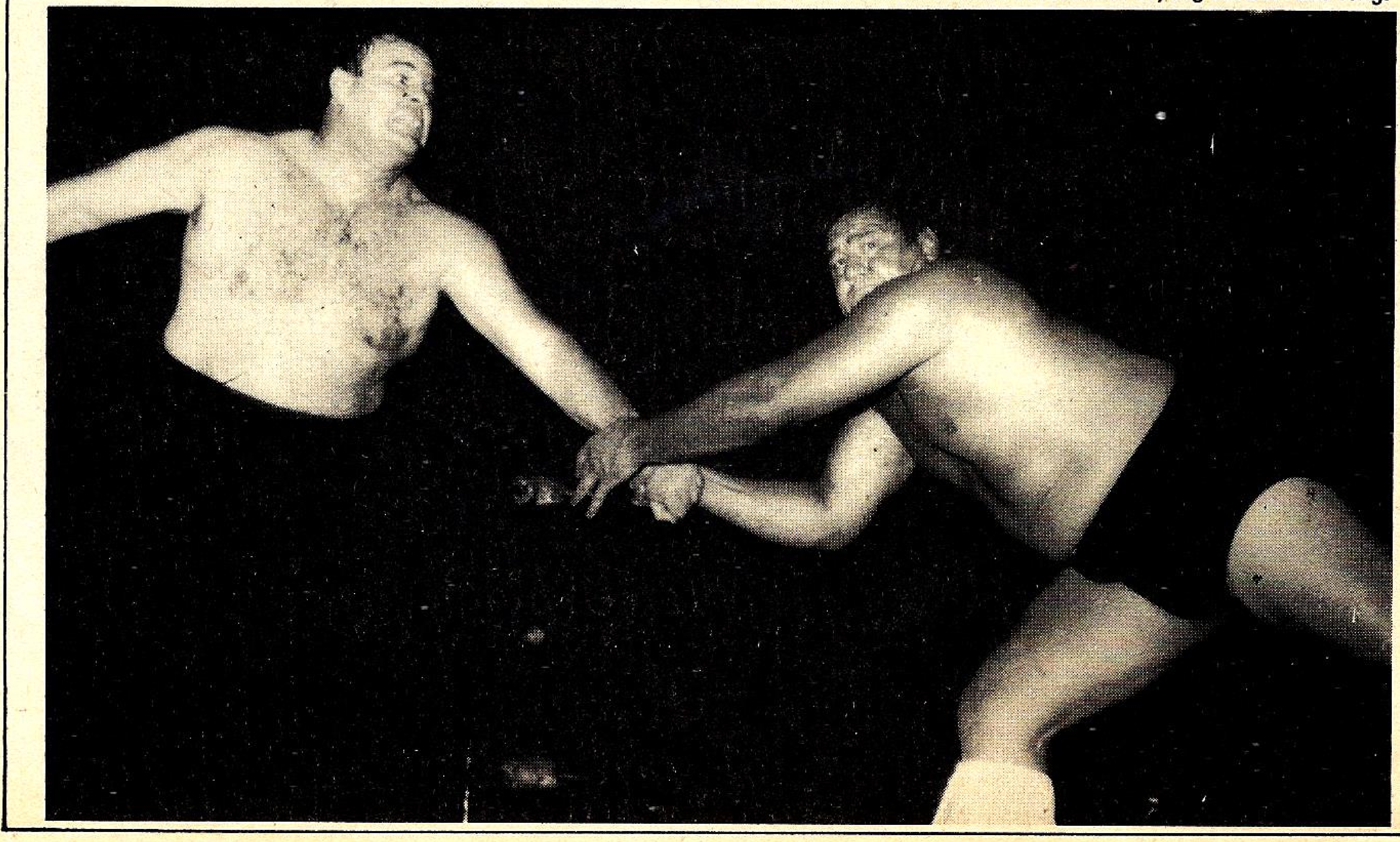
WAHOO McDANIEL WARNS:

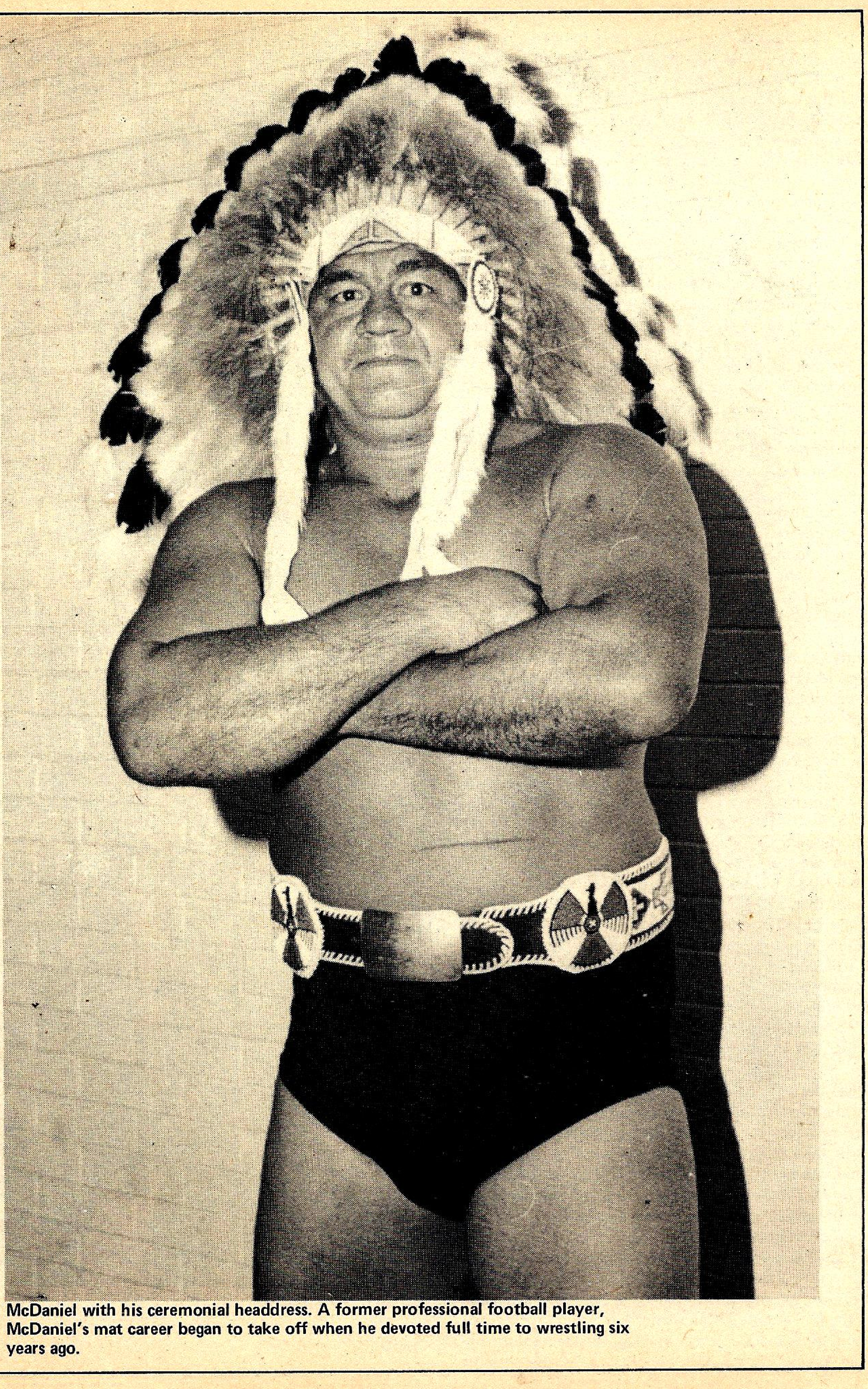
"I'm Ready Now For Johnny Valentine!"

The popular Indian has had his share of disappointments against the rugged Valentine. But next time he is determined to get even.

BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

Wahoo McDaniel leans over and prepares to send the Missouri Mauler flying across the ring.





McDaniel with his ceremonial headdress. A former professional football player, McDaniel's mat career began to take off when he devoted full time to wrestling six years ago.

There are quite a few wrestlers with Indian blood currently campaigning throughout the wrestling world. However, of all the great Indian stars, the most colorful, most exciting, most talented, and definitely the most popular on an international level is the sensational Choctau-Chippewa Indian, Wahoo McDaniel.

Wahoo has been thrilling mat fans all across the country since 1960, the year he first entered professional wrestling. But it wasn't until 1969 that McDaniel decided to devote his full energies to only wrestling. During the early part of his career Wahoo used to divide his time between the gridiron and the mat, wrestling only during the off season. However, after the '69 season, McDaniel decided to pursue his wrestling career on a full time basis. With more time to spend on the mat, Wahoo McDaniel's career immediately began to skyrocket. Within a matter of time, the former football player had developed himself into one of the true stars of the mat, a position that he has held ever since.

Wahoo McDaniel has appeared in practically every area in the country and, no matter where he has appeared, the fans in these territories can always recall a favorite McDaniel's clash. His battles with Dory Funk Jr. in Houston generated the largest crowd and the most excitement ever witnessed in this Texas City. Wahoo's clashes with the Superstar Billy Graham and Dusty Rhodes in the A.W.A. territory are still some of the most talked about battles ever seen in the midwest, and today McDaniel's battles with Black Jack Mulligan and Johnny Valentine in the Virginia-Carolina area have turned into real classic "knock down and drag out" brawls that will definitely be remembered in the years to come.

Recently, before one of his matches in the Richmond Coliseum, McDaniel spoke to this reporter about his career. Wahoo began by stating, "I've been wrestling here in the Mid-Atlantic states area for almost a year now and I must say that the competition and the talent in this area is perhaps the best I've ever seen. In between my commitments here I still fly to Houston and Minneapolis at times to wrestle but my main base of operation is right here. Tonight I'm going against Black Jack Mulligan. I've faced him before and I am hoping to finally get him out of my hair. He's a very tough wrestler but I'll beat him.

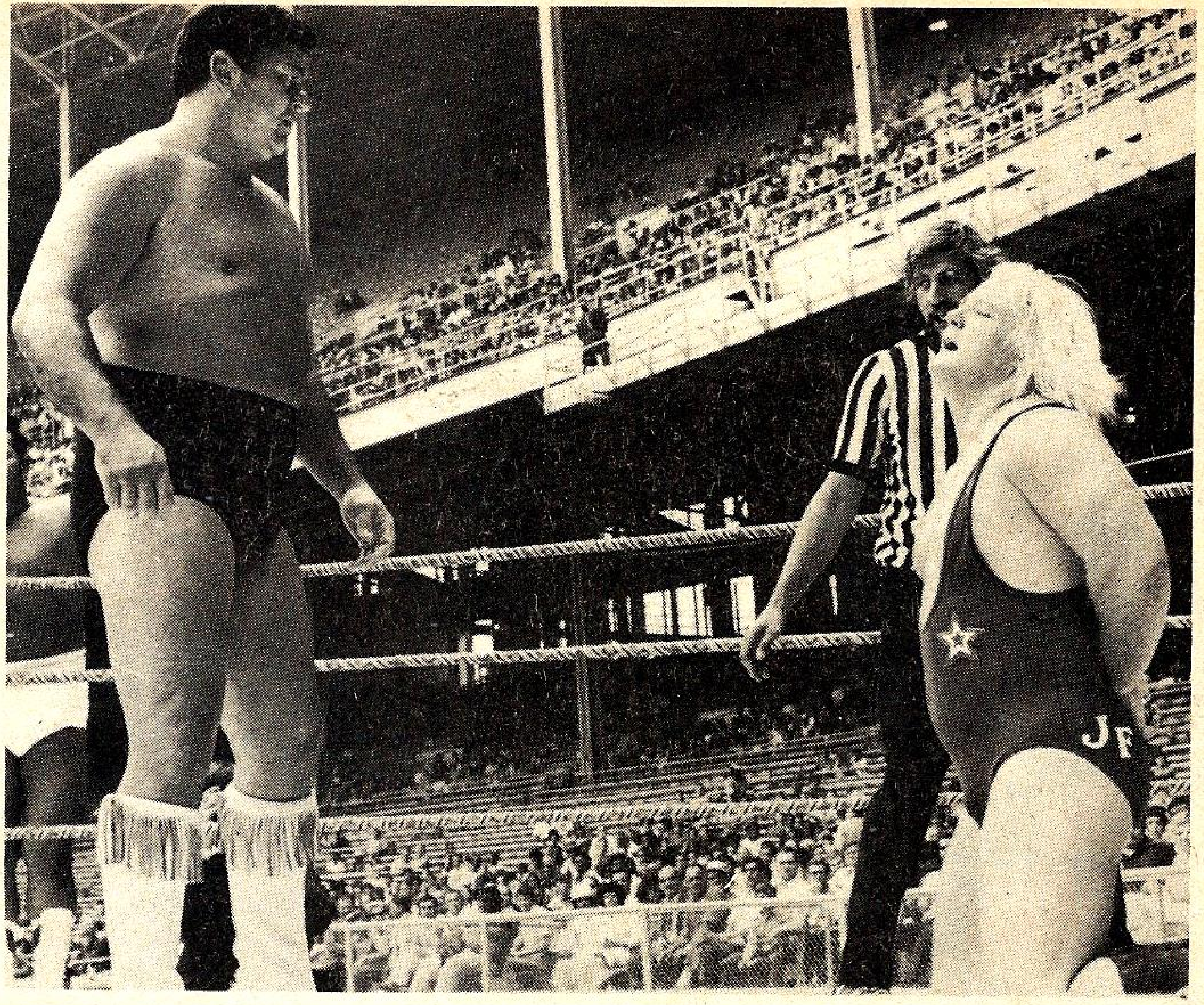
"I'll tell you this though, there is one guy that I really want more than anyone else and he is Johnny Valentine. I can't begin to tell you the number of times I've battled this guy. I think everywhere I've been I've had to go against him for the title and in every case I always wound up with the area's championship. I took his belt in Florida, in Texas and now I'm going to get it here no matter how long it takes me. He's a very tough man. He's been on top here for about 15 months, but if anyone has the chance to beat him it's me.

"I've got the size, the ability and the backing of the fans. I've already wrestled him several times here but he's always somehow managed to retain the belt. It's a lot easier to retain a belt than to gain it because there are so many ways that a man can hold onto a title while still losing the match. Several times I've had him on the verge of defeat, but in each case he deliberately got himself disqualified so that he could hold on to his title.

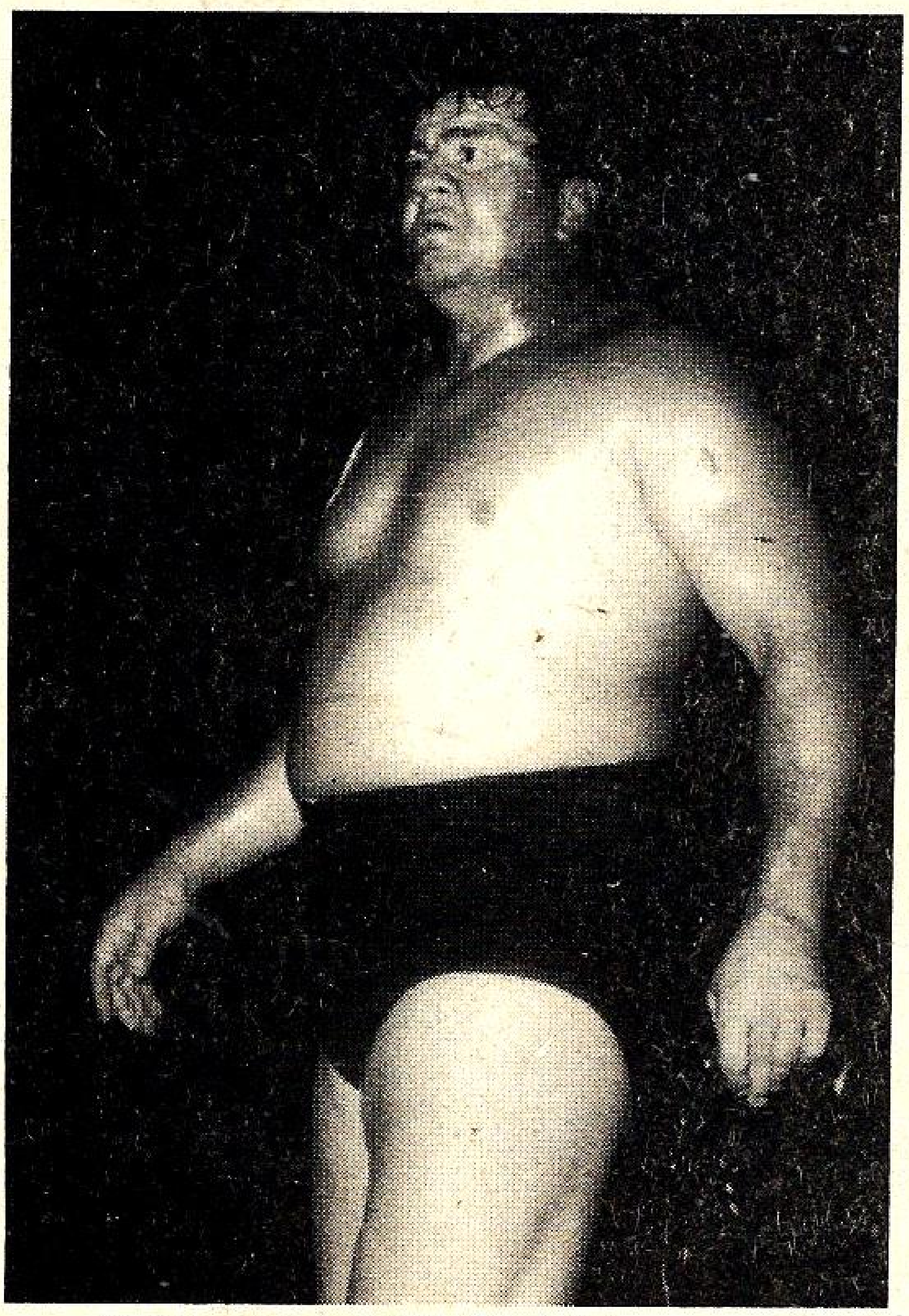
"But I got his number! I know what it will take to defeat him and in time I will accomplish this. As I said before, I've beaten him in the past and I expect to beat him again and capture the Mid Atlantic States title."

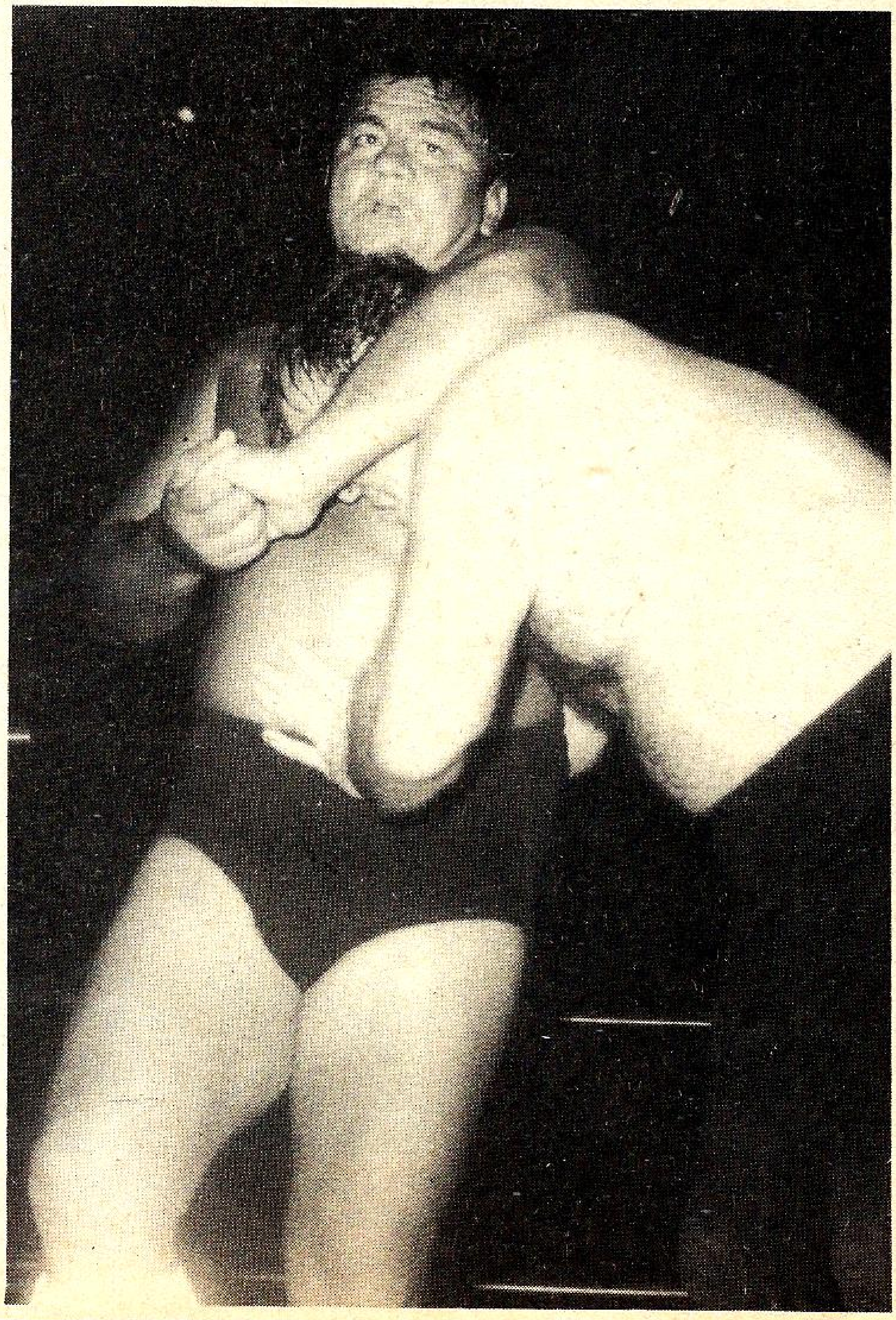
As soon as Wahoo appears in view, pandemonium immediately breaks loose. The appearance of the likeable

McDaniel, right, and Chief White Owl are two of the most popular Indian wrestlers on circuit. They wave to crowd at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium.



Johnny Fargo begs for mercy as McDaniel stands over him during their outdoor match in Cleveland.





Holding his belt, McDaniel peers across the ring after emerging with a victory. At right, he applies a side headlock on the Missouri Mauler.

Indian star in the ring makes the fans go wild whooping, hollering and yelling encouragement and this continues all throughout Wahoo's matches. When the going gets rough for McDaniel, his regiment of fans quickly begin to pound on their seats in a rhythmic fashion simulating the sound of beating tom-toms and within seconds the tide begins to turn in Wahoo's favor. Now all that is left is for Wahoo to apply his deadly Choctau Death Lock and the match is his!

"I owe a great deal to my fans," McDaniel stated. "They always get my adrenalin flowing whenever I'm in a tough situation and this has helped me to overcome quite a few of my heated rivals. It's just tremendous to have this kind of support wherever you go and I am very grateful to all my fans for the way they have supported me throughout the years."

This type of support is quite reminiscent of the backing that Chief Jay Strongbow has received in the W.W.W.F. area and the teaming of these two great Indian stars would certainly make for a sensational duo. But will these two Indian grapplers ever team up? When asked about this possibility Wahoo replied, "I've been asked quite a few times by promoter Vince McMahon to come to New York but right now I'm just too busy with all my other commitments to come to the W.W.W.F. area to wrestle. I know that Strongbow and I would really make a good team and I would like to team up with him, but right now nothing is set. As I said before, I would really love to wrestle in Madison Square Garden and all over the east. I am just kind of sorting things out now but who knows I may just get there sometime in the future."

In his career Wahoo has battled all of the big names in the sport and his record over these top stars has been simply outstanding. Out of all these top stars, Wahoo considers his arch enemy Johnny Valentine and also the former N.W.A. champion Dory Funk Jr. to be the toughest men he has ever faced.

"You know I've wrestled in thousands of matches but Valentine has got to be the toughest man that I have ever faced," he admits "Not many people give Valentine the credit he really deserves, but he definitely knows every hold in the book and he can really surprise you in that ring. As I mentioned earlier, I've been battling this guy all over the country and it doesn't look like I'm ever gonna stop battling him.

"Another one of my real tough opponents has been Dory Funk Jr. I've wrestled him numerous times and you never really know what he's gonna try next on you. Over all my toughest matches have to be the ones I had against Dory Jr. when he held the N.W.A. title. I wrestled him eight times during his championship years and each match was a real experience. Four times we wrestled to a draw, twice he won the decision and twice I won by disqualification."

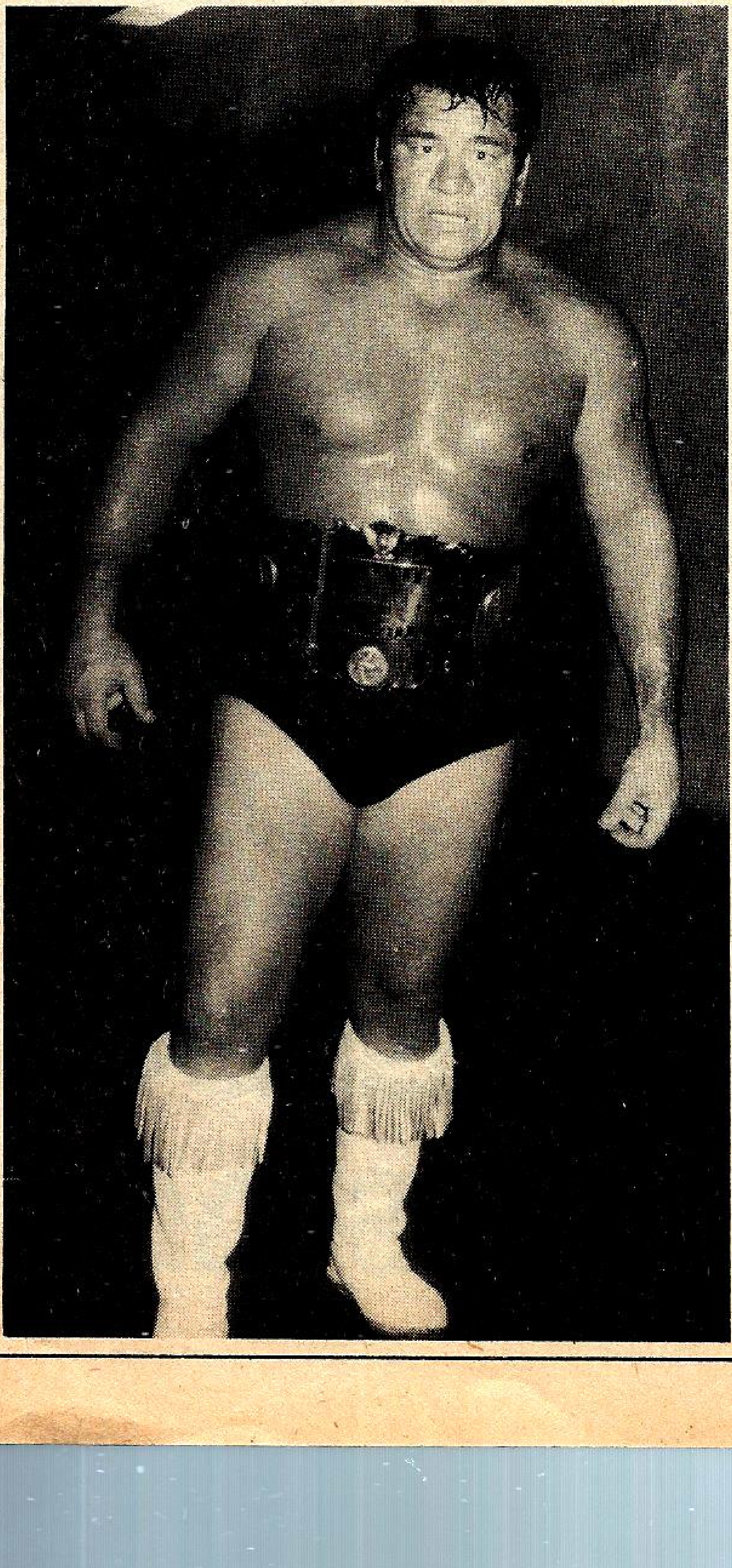
Wahoo paused then continued, "You know what I would really love more than any thing else would be to win the N.W.A. world's title. I've been trying for this belt ever since Funk held it. I feel that I could take it. Twice I wrestled Brisco to a draw and twice he got himself disqualified while I was on top. This is the same kind of thing that Valentine pulled on me here, but I feel that I will take him. Don't get me wrong, I have nothing at all against Jack Brisco. He's a great wrestler and a fine individual, but he has what I want and what I would say everyone else also wants and this is the title. I only hope that I can get another chance to face him. I have confidence in my ability and this combined with the fine loyal support that I have throughout the country gives me a psychological advantage over Brisco. Now all I need is the match and then I'll be all set to step in and take over the N.W.A. title."

Even if Wahoo McDaniel doesn't caputre the N.W.A. title This Indian superstar has definitely proven to be one of the true stars of the profession, and his accomplishments throughout the wrestling world are certainly worthy of a place in a wrestling "Hall of Fame".

Checking over his tremendous record one can see that Wahoo has done it all: Texas Heavyweight champion, Americas Champion, Brass Knuckles champion, in Texas and Florida, Florida State titleholder, Southern States champion, I.W.E. champion in Japan, World Tag Team Title holder on three occasions plus numerous occasions plus numerous regional titles all over the country.

By this impressive list one would have to rate Wahoo McDaniel as the greatest Indian grappler ever to appear on the wrestling circuit. With his tremendous ability and expert wrestling knowledge, who knows, someday Wahoo McDaniel just might become the first Indian ever to capture the prestigious N.W.A. championship. ■

Showing the rigors of battle, McDaniel nevertheless found time to pose with his American Heavyweight belt.



DESTROYER
ザ・デストロイヤー

EXCLUSIVE FROM JAPAN

The Battle of the Masked Superstars

It was a long-awaited bout that thousands turned out to see in Japan. Mil Mascaras against The Destroyer, and the two stars fought to a draw in what was billed as. . .

BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA

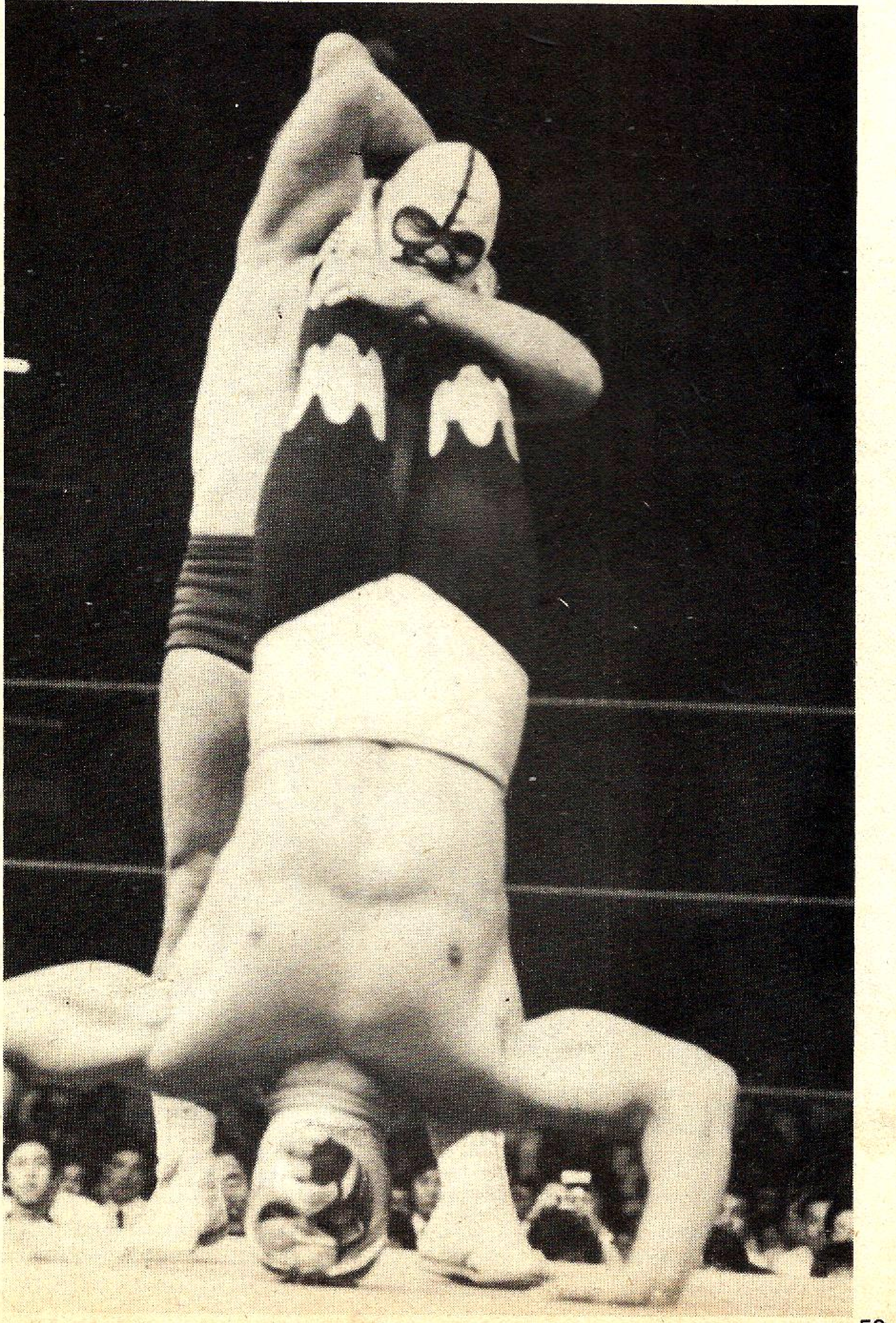
There are quite a few masked wrestlers in the wrestling world but out of all of the hundreds of men who wrestled behind a mask there are only a handful who have ever reached national prominence. The more famous would include the Super Destroyer, Mr. Wrestling I and II, Gran Markus, and Dos Caras, but besides these five there are two more masked grapplers who are without a doubt the most famous of these hooded stars the Destroyer and Mil Mascaras.

Both men have faced each other several times in Los Angeles and in Japan but neither was ever able to score a clear decisive victory. Not too long ago these two met again in Japan in a match billed as the "Battle of the Masked Superstars" to determine who in fact was the top masked grappler in the sport. The match received quite a bit of attention and national publicity in Japan.

Several days before the match this reporter spoke to the intelligent, sensational Destroyer about his upcoming battle. The masked star stated, "I've wrestled Mil Mascaras many times before and I've defeated him in every one of our meetings so I don't know why this one match is supposed to determine who is the best masked wrestler in the sport. Everyone already knows that the best is me but I'll still face him just to prove it again.

"I must admit, however, that he is a greal good wrestler. He knows many different holds and tactics and he is extremely quickly and agile in the ring and because of this I would have to rate him as one of the best in the sport. But notice I said 'one of the best'. There are still many men in front of him. Baba, Tsuruta, Brisco and myself are all better than Mascaras

It appears as if the Destroyer has Mil Mascaras at a complete disadvantage. However, Mascaras has his legs clamped around the Destroyer's neck.



but as I said before he's good.

"As far as masked wrestlers are concerned there is no other one that even comes barely close to having my ability, stamina and knowledge in this sport."

The Destroyer then paused and stated, "You know there is really one masked guy that I would love to face and that is the character that calls himself the Super Destroyer. He has no right to use my name no less than call himself Super. If I ever get a hold of him I'll make him wish he never chose to copy my name, but that's all in the future. The only thing on my mind now is to show all my wonderful fans that I am indeed the best masked wrestler in the sport and I will prove this against Mascaras later this week."

The arrival of Mil Mascaras in Japan was anxiously awaited for quite a few weeks. Finally on the day of his arrival quite a few reporters, photographers and fans were on hand to greet the sensational Mexican. At the Haneda Airport, Mascaras spoke for quite some time to the reproters and then posed for numerous pictures. Once this was complete this reporter drove Mascaras to his hotel and as we drove Mascaras talked about his upcoming battle and his activities in the States.

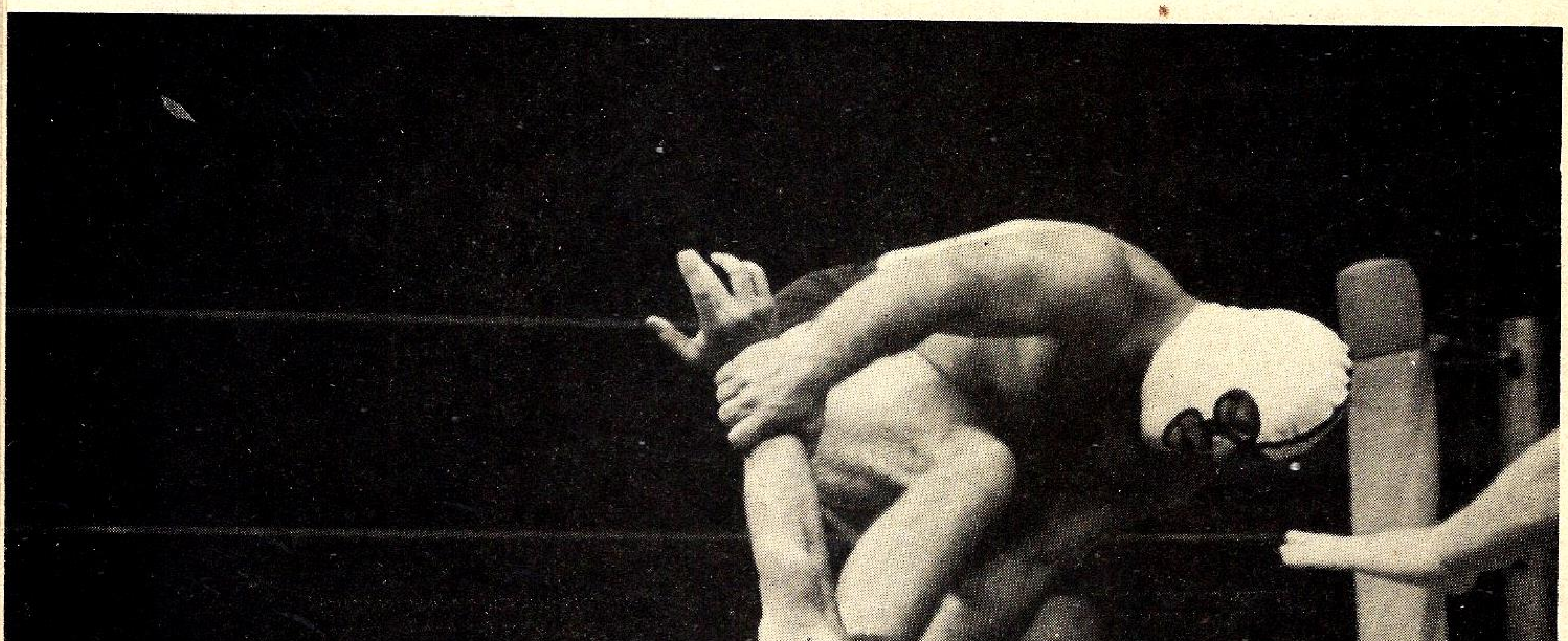
"I really love to come here to Japan," Mascaras began. "The people are always so very nice and friendly and the competition is always the best. You have so many good men here but the one person I'm looking to face is the Destroyer. He's an old enemy of mine from Los Angeles and we've had quite a few battles over the years.

"Every time I wrestle him I know I'm in for a rough battle. He's a very smart wrestler and I have a great amount of respect for him in the ring. I feel though that I am the better wrestler and I do hold the advantage in wins and I hope that later tonight I will add another victory to my list."

Mil then paused and began to talk about his recent activities.

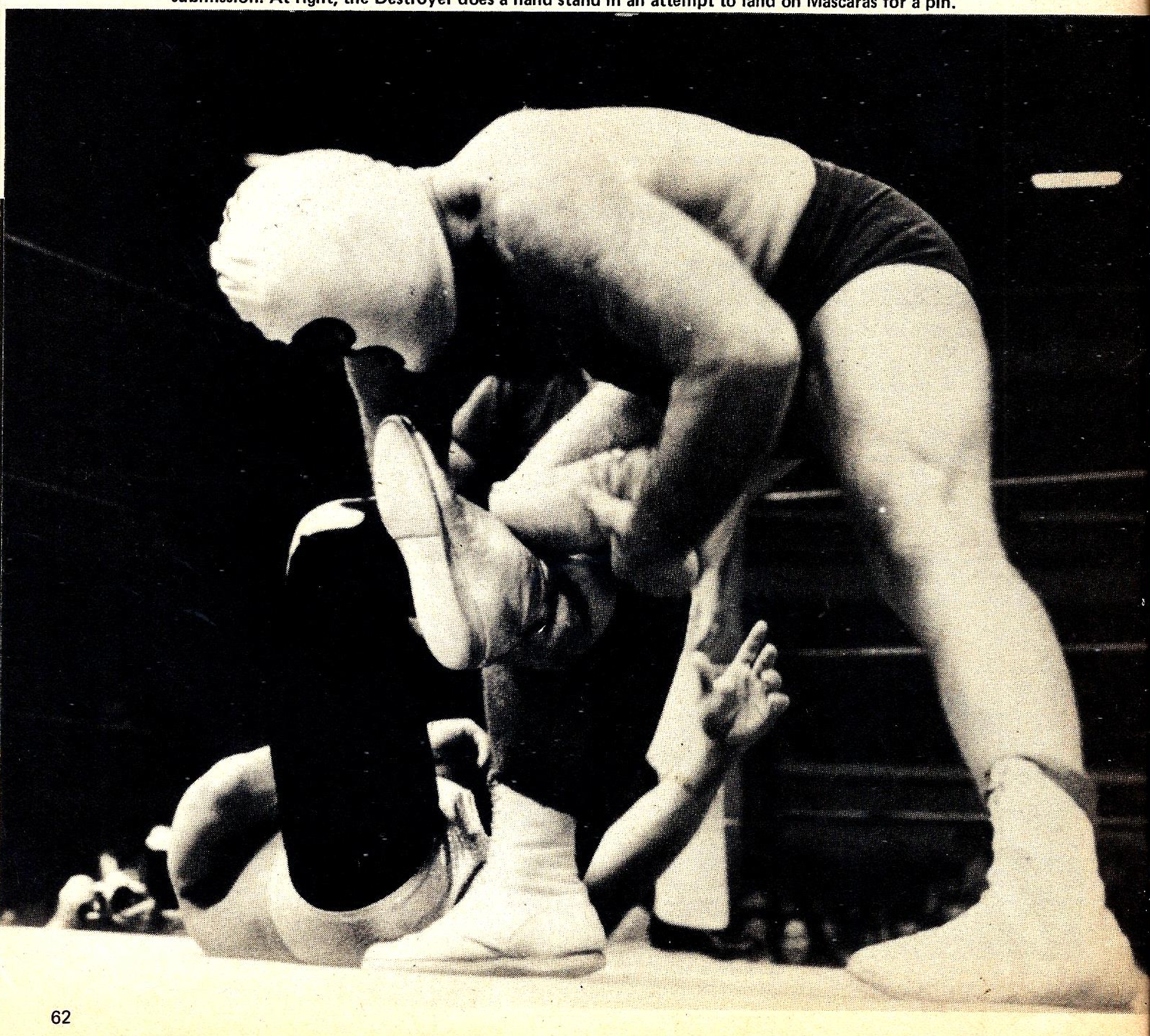
"I've been very busy lately wrestling

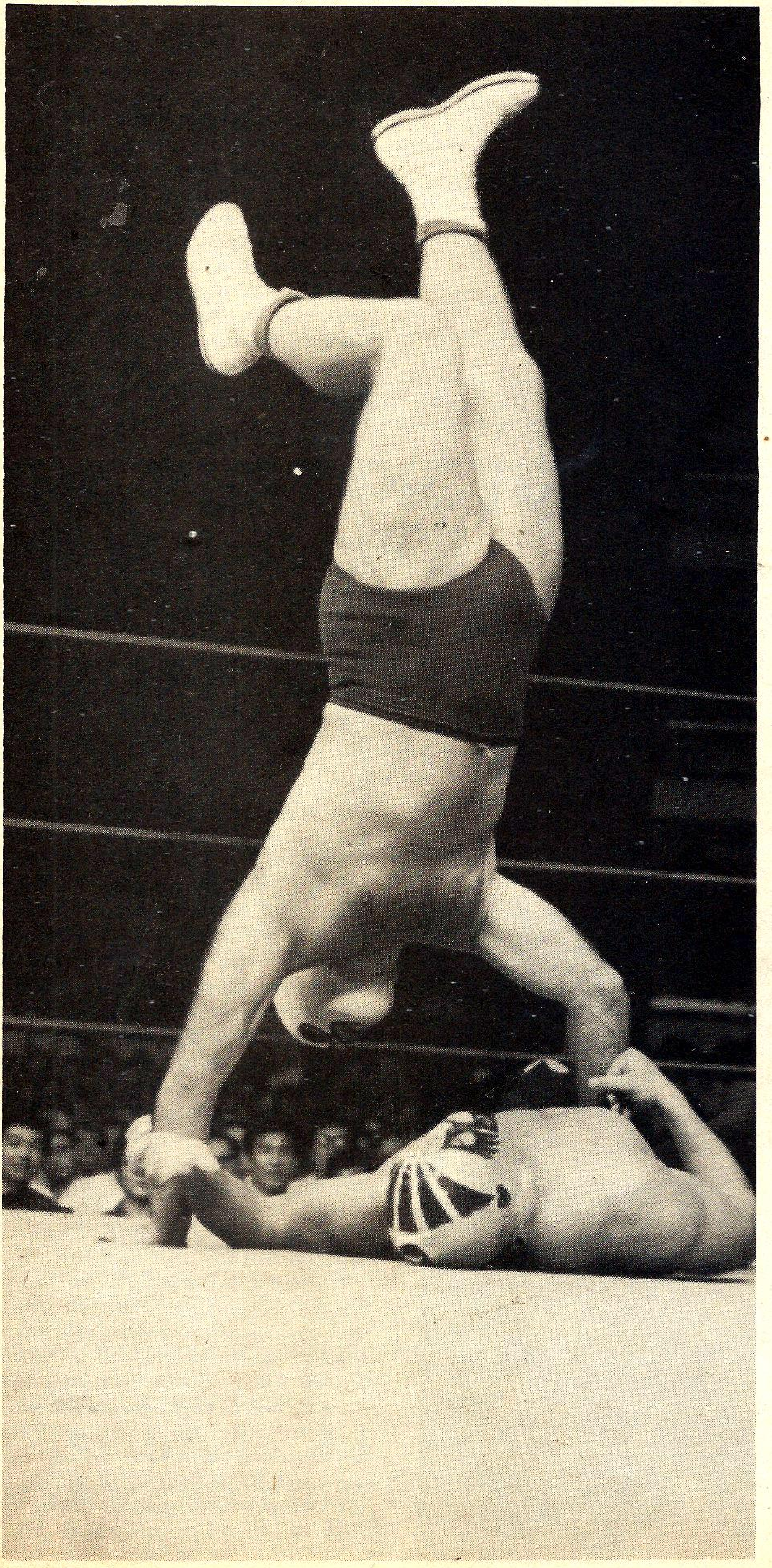
(Continued on page 62)



The Destroyer has Mascaras in serious trouble. He applies pressure on Mascaras by bending his arms backwards while keeping him pinned face down on the canvas.

A sound practitioner of scientific wrestling, the Destroyer (below) tries to apply his favorite hold, The Figure 4 Leglock, on Mascaras. Once the maneuver is applied, it results in a submission. At right, the Destroyer does a hand stand in an attempt to land on Mascaras for a pin.





in many different cities all over the U.S. defending my I.W.A. title," he revealed. "Later on in the year I will be going on tour to Ecuador, Guatamala, Peru (again to defend the I.W.A. title) and I'm very much looking forward to this. I really love to travel, meet people, and wrestle in many different cities and countries and once I finish this tour I will return to Mexico to begin work on another movie.

"I've already made 17 movies and I will begin work on another very, very soon. But getting back to tonight's battle, the Destroyer is very very tough but I hope to defeat him in the center of the ring and make all my Japanese friends happy."

After an hour's drive through rush hour traffic, we finally reached our destination and bid farewell until the night's battle.

After several preliminary bouts the time for the big battle arrived. The Destroyer was the first participant in the ring and the Japanese star was warmly cheered by many of the fans in attendance. Mil Mascaras followed close behind and Mascaras with his long

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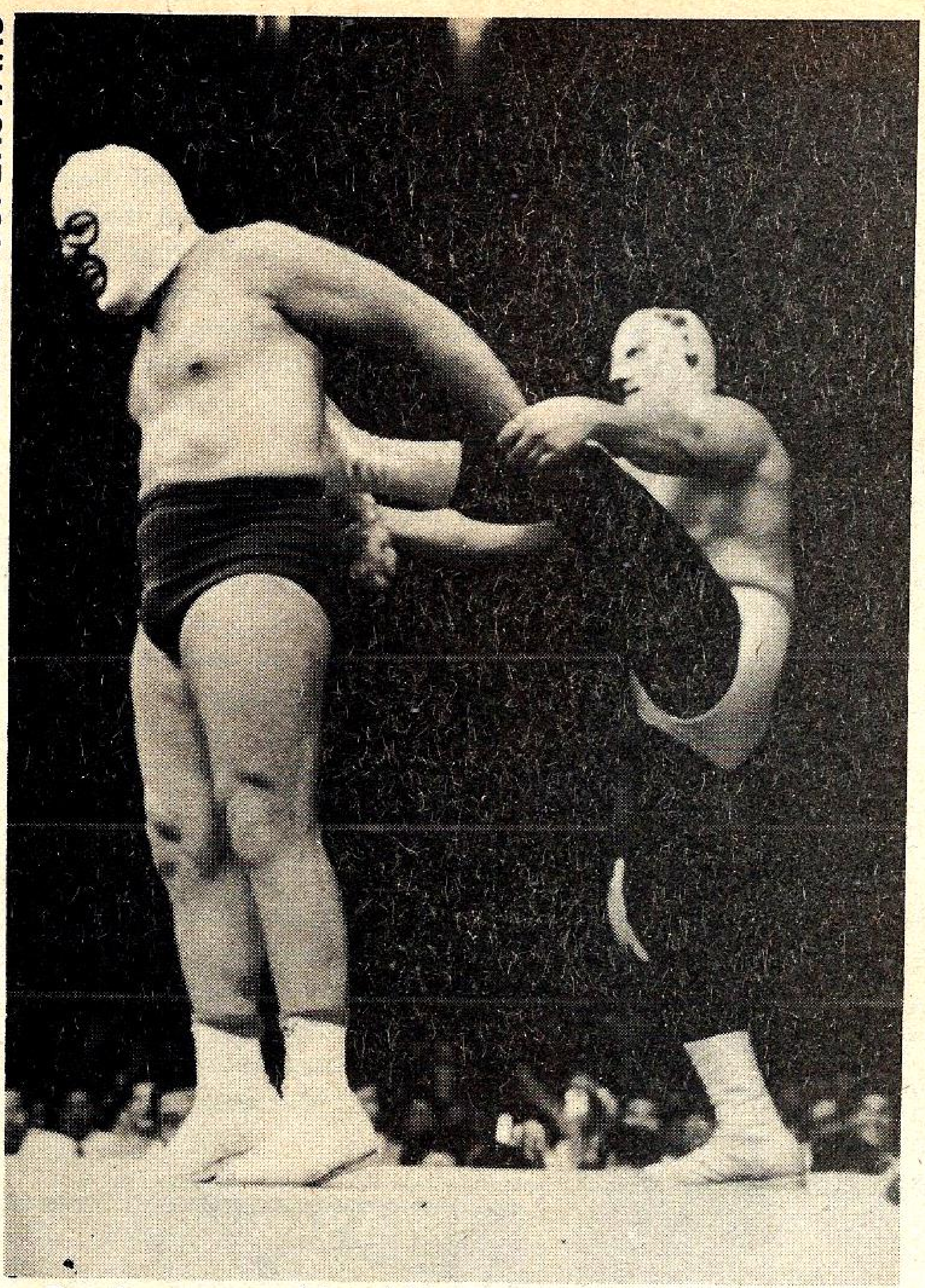
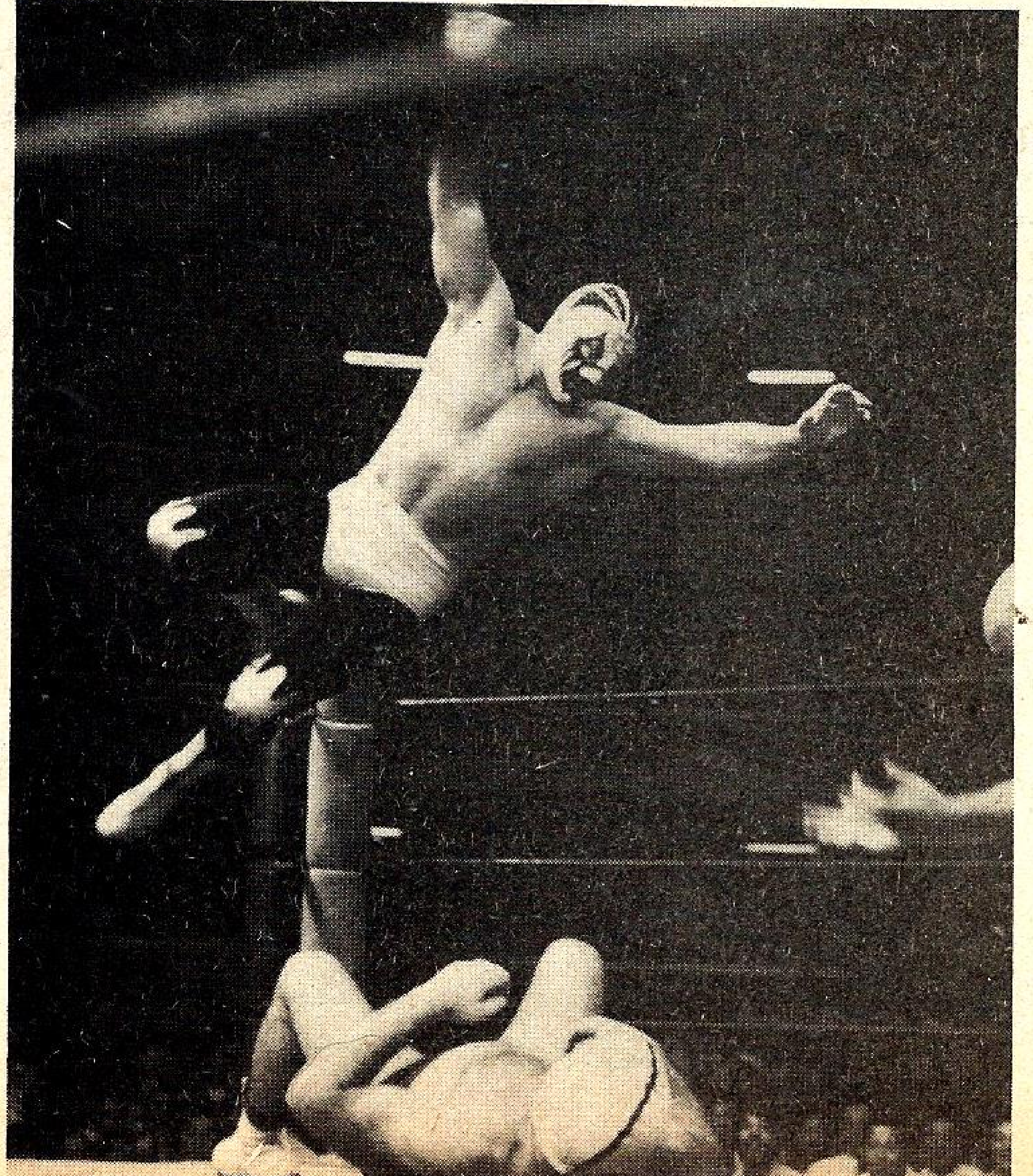


Exerting pressure, (above) Mascaras executes the Surf Board on the Destroyer. The excruciating pain makes the Destroyer lift his feet from floor. Below, soaring off the top rope, Mascaras prepares to land on the prone Destroyer.



flowing cape and magnificent physique was surely a sight to be seen. As soon as Mascaras stepped into the ring the popular masked man received a large bouquet of flowers, a symbol of his acceptance in our country.

After receiving the opening instructions, the match was underway. Mascaras and the Destroyer opened up the battle with a test of strength with Mascaras bringing the Destroyer down to his knees with the maneuver. The Destroyer, getting to his feet, applied an arm lock on Mascaras which had the "Man of 1,000 Masks" yelling in pain. Mascaras, however, managed to break free and quickly sent the Destroyer crashing to the mat with a flying body block.

Mascaras then began to work on the legs of the Japanese resident, weakening him greatly. Mascaras applied hold after hold on the Destroyer and after seeing his opening Mascaras tried to apply the feared Boston Crab. The Destroyer, however, somehow managed to crawl to the ropes making Mascaras release his hold.

The Destroyer was furious! The Japanese T.V. star pounded Mascaras over and over with devastating forearm smashes which finally knocked the masked man off his feet. With Mascaras on the mat, the Destroyer quickly tried to apply his feared figure four leg lock, but Mascaras was able to kick the Destroyer off of him. Once getting to his feet Mascaras, whipped the Destroyer into the ropes and then Mascaras went crashing into the Destroyer with his flying body block. Once, twice, three times Mascaras knocked the Destroyer into the mat with his body block but after each maneuver the Destroyer still managed to get to his feet. On the fourth try, the Destroyer side-stepped the high flying Mascaras and the "sensational, intelligent one", capitalized on Mascaras' mistake by jumping off the top rope directly on to the fallen Mascaras. After 16:03 the Destroyer had captured the first fall.

The second fall began with the Destroyer charging at Mascaras. The Destroyer unleashed a series of elbow smashes, knee stomps, and a neck breaker sending Mascaras crashing to the mat. Mil, however, managed to get to his feet and began to retaliate. The Destroyer and Mascaras went at it hot and heavy. In the heat of the battle, the Destroyer attempted to deliver a drop kick but Mascaras, seeing this

(Continued on page 66)

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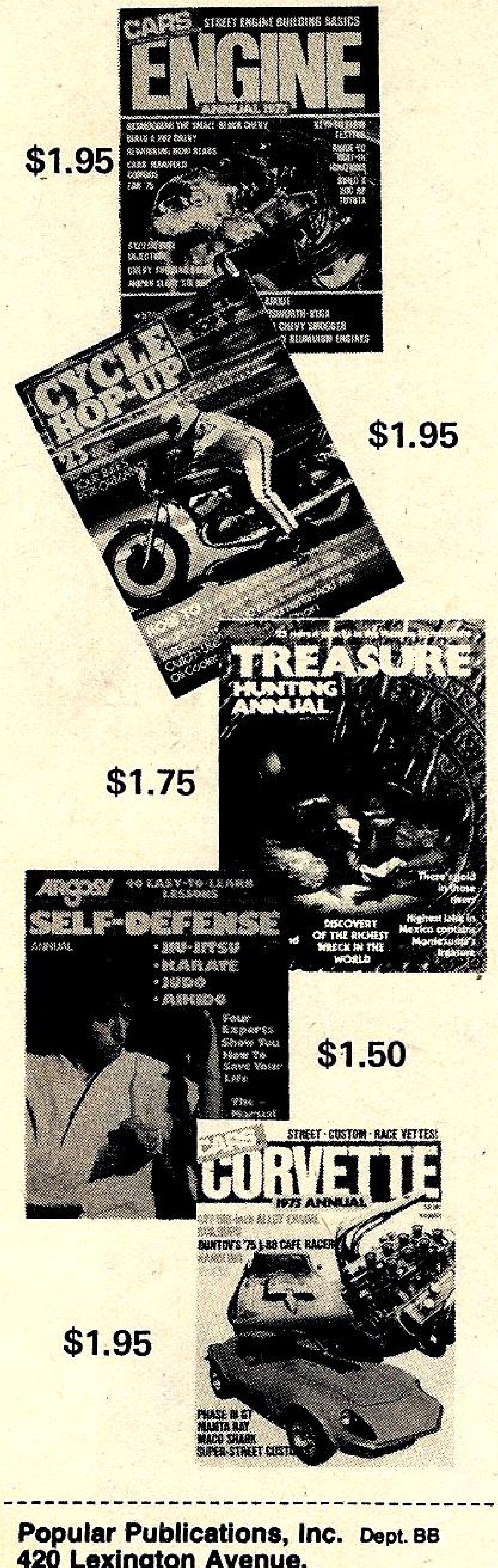

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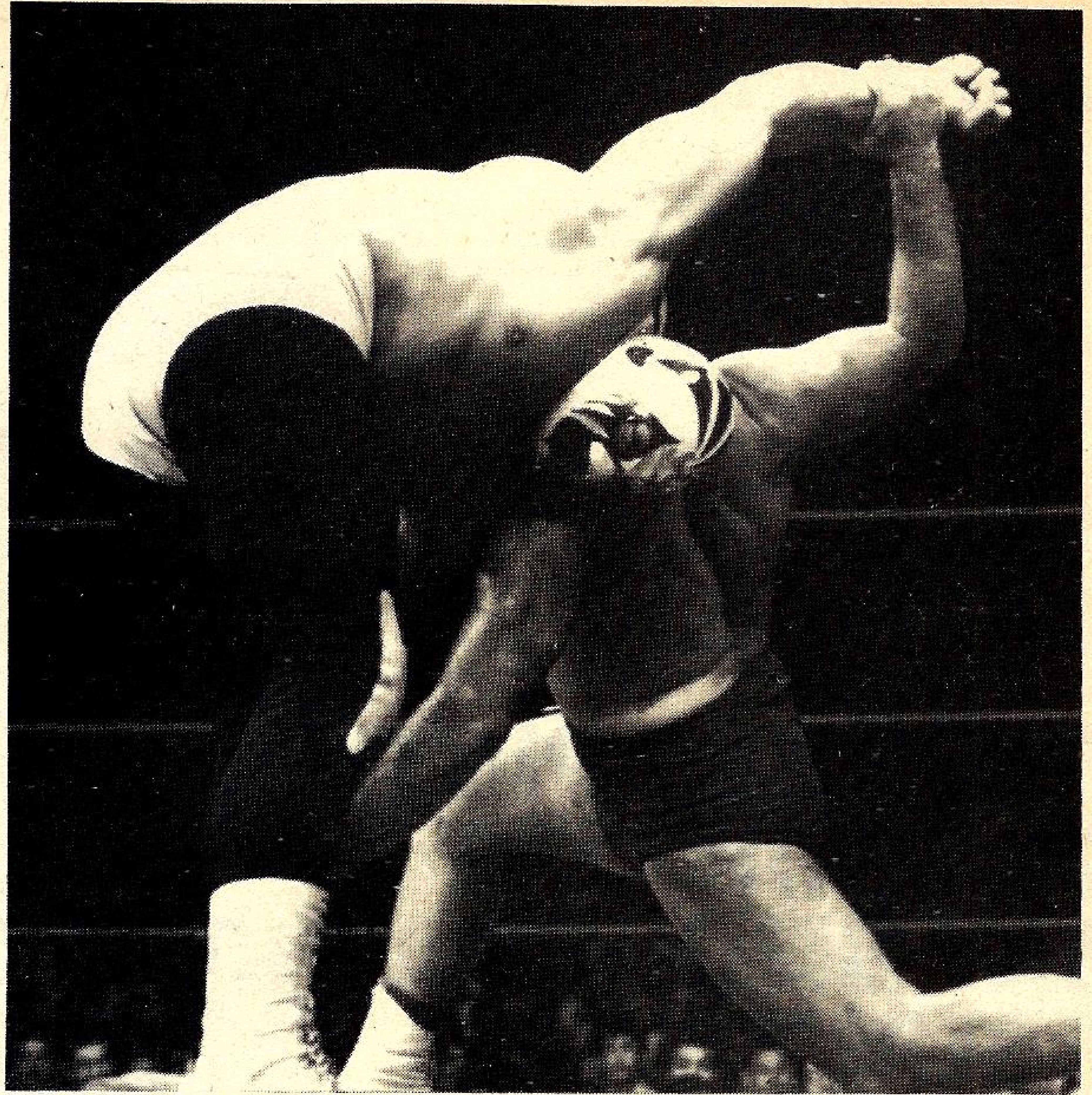

The Destroyer, right, and Mascaras engage in a test of strength. Their match ended in a draw when the referee disqualified both stars for fighting outside the ring.

MASKED SUPERSTARS

maneuver coming, quickly avoid the Destroyer.

Now Mascaras was on top and the popular Mexican went all out for the pin. A "Brain Buster" by Mascaras further weakened the Destroyer and then a perfectly executed flying body block sent the Destroyer crashing to the mat. After 4:52 the popular Mil Mascaras had evened up the falls and the match.

The third fall began with Mascaras quickly charging from his corner in an attempt to get the opening advantage over the Destroyer. The Mexican quickly applied a pile driver and then an atomic drop. Mascaras tried the atomic drop for the second time but the Destroyer managed to grab Mascaras' leg sending him crashing to the mat in pain. The Destroyer quickly applied his feared figure four leg lock. Mascaras was desparately rolling on the mat in an effort to break free.

Finally, the Mexican managed to grab the bottom rope. The referee then made the Destroyer release the hold but after doing so, the Destroyer continued to pound on Mascaras' injured leg. Both men then rolled out of the ring and began to fight around the outside of the ring. The Destroyer pounded Mascaras' head into the metal post but Mil quickly retaliated with the same maneuver. As both men continued to fight outside of the ring, the referee, after reaching the count of ten, had to disqualify both men declaring the match a draw.

Many of the fans were unhappy with the decision for we hoped to actually see either the Destroyer or Mil Mascaras declared the "World's Greatest Masked Wrestler". However, from the outcome of this match, we did learn that these two sensational masked grapplers are very evenly matched and we are all anxiously awaiting Mil Mascaras' return to this country to once again renew his battle with the Destroyer.

All in all one would have to say that both the Destroyer and Mil Mascaras are the "World's Greatest Masked Wrestlers" for there is no other wrestler around that can come close to matching the accomplishments of these two great super masked stars. ■

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